

Hafa Adai!

Public urged to disregard mail from US Census Bureau. **PAGE 2**
Contractor affirms that US Marshal seized IPI's money. **PAGE 3**

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Search for Encabo continues

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The search for 21-year-old Honorio Encabo, who was swept out to sea in As Teo last Sunday following a hiking trip gone wrong, continues with no luck.

See SEARCH on Page 4

Changes in arrival procedures

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced yesterday a new arrival procedure for all individuals entering the CNMI in order to prioritize the safety of Marianas residents and

travelers.

Effective Thursday, July 9, 2020, the CNMI will be implementing a revised COVID-19 assessment criteria. This change is due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in Guam,

See CHANGES on Page 4

PSS: We need at least \$25M

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School Sys-

tem is asking the Legislature to give it a budget that is more than the \$20.6 million that the Office of the Governor is proposing to allocate them in fiscal year 2021, despite the amount being \$3 million more than the original proposed allocation of \$17.5 million.

PSS submitted a \$37-million budget request before

See PSS on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 6, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	288	13	301
Recovered	179	0	179
Active	104	13	117
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		15,683	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	31	0	31
Active	1	0	1
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		8,217**	

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Kensington reopens, not PIC yet

» Cavanagh does not see any value of reopening PIC, other hotels due to low demand

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

While Kensington Hotel Saipan has reopened, Pacific Islands Club Saipan is not scheduled to open yet because of low demand, according to PIC general manager Gloria Cavanagh yesterday.

See KENSINGTON on Page 4



Cavanagh



The Kensington Hotel Saipan lobby.

KRIZEL TUAZON



BEACH CLEANUP

Piles of trash are washed up by the tides at the Old Man by the Sea beach. A group of volunteers spent time picking up trash at the beach last June 28, collecting 125 bags that would be equivalent to 800 lbs of garbage.

See Story on Page 7

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Staff of Fishguyz Scuba & Charter can't wait to get back in the water.

PAGE 11



NATION

A person is killed when a man drove his car onto a crowd protesting police brutality.

PAGE 12



WORLD

Residents of the town across Arizona briefly block the road leading south from the U.S.

PAGE 13



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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Public urged to disregard mail from US Census Bureau

By BEA CABRERA

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CORRESPONDENT

Between June 24 and July 3, 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau in Washington, D.C. inadvertently sent notices to over 8,400 postal boxes in the CNMI, stating a number to call to respond to the census. CNMI residents are now being urged to disregard it.

This was the message of CNMI Census office manager Clyde K. Norita in a news briefing yesterday at the CNMI Census 2020 Office along Beach Road in Chalan Laulau. "It's an urgent concern for us. ... If they received it, please disregard because it doesn't apply to U.S. Island Territories," he said.

First, if you call the number stated, it will ask for your street address, which the CNMI does not have. Secondly, there are only two ways that the 2020 Census is conducted in the CNMI, Norita said. "Either we have people visiting and conducting in-person interviews or via phone interview," he added.

"People have been calling this morning trying to verify



Colleen Joyce, the 2020 Census Adviser to the CNMI, and 2020 CNMI Census office manager Clyde K. Norita urge the public yesterday to disregard the notice that was mistakenly sent by the U.S. Census Bureau to the P.O. boxes of CNMI residents.

the mail they got from the U.S. Census and we tell them to disregard. ... We learned that Rota got it because we

received calls from them. ... Tinian will be next. Other islands—Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—are also receiving this notice," he added.

The wrong notice states a website and a 1-800 number to call and that the respondent must be able to provide a street address and not a P.O. box. It also states that Census workers will begin visiting homes in August to interview house-

holds, which all are clearly not the procedures being implemented in the CNMI.

According to Colleen Joyce, the 2020 Census adviser to the CNMI, there was a mistake as those notices were meant for the U.S. mainland only. "We would like to apologize that the mailing went out... with some incorrect information for the CNMI. ... There was an oversight and the website and

See PUBLIC on Page 4

OAG: District Court should not inject itself in PSS dispute

The Office of the Attorney General has asserted that the U.S. District Court for the NMI should not inject itself into the dispute between the CNMI government and the Public School System over the annual PSS budget issue.

Deputy Attorney General Lillian A. Tenorio asked the District Court Thursday to deny the NMI Settlement Fund's request for a declaratory ruling that PSS is not entitled to 25% of the Settlement Revolving Fund and the amounts appropriated to the 25% benefit payments under the CNMI statute.

Tenorio also asked the court

to deny the Settlement Fund's request for a ruling that PSS' actions violate the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action.

Under the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund that was approved in 2013, the CNMI government agrees to make annual payments that will enable the settlement to fund at least 75% of class members' benefits.

Tenorio said the Settlement Fund's legal basis for the relief falls outside the District Court's jurisdiction under the

Johnson settlement agreement as the Commonwealth's obligation under that agreement are unaffected by the PSS lawsuit filed in the Superior Court.

She said the issue of PSS' budget under the NMI Constitution is presently being litigated in the Superior Court, and the Commonwealth's payment obligations to the Settlement Fund are not in dispute.

Tenorio noted that the Johnson settlement agreement was intended to provide the Commonwealth with litigation peace, resolve pending issues, and provide a workable budget plan for paying the retir-

ees' pension.

She said the Settlement Fund's motion to enforce is contrary to the intent of the settlement agreement based on the speculative possibility that the Commonwealth will not make payments to the Settlement Fund because of the PSS lawsuit.

If the court were to grant the motion, Tenorio said, it would pave the way for the Settlement Fund to file motions for a wide variety of speculative threats to their payments under the settlement agreement.

She said the Settlement Fund's theory undercuts the settlement agreement by undermin-

ing the terms of the agreement and the litigation peace it was supposed to bring to the parties.

Under the Johnson settlement agreement, the Commonwealth and the signatory autonomous agencies, including PSS, agreed to a consent judgment of \$779 million, "or the equivalent of the actuarial present value of benefits related to the Settlement Class members."

PSS and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada are suing Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Finance Secretary David Atalig before the Superior Court to guarantee for PSS an annual budget of not less than 25% of the Commonwealth's general revenue. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Contractor affirms that US Marshal seized IPI's money

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Pacific Rim Land Development LLC, a former contractor of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, has confirmed that the U.S. Marshal Service has indeed seized IPI's money from Bank of Saipan and two title companies.

In its motion filed Thursday, Pacific Rim, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, disclosed that, based on his information, the money seized from Bank of Saipan, Pacific American Title Inc. and Security Title Inc. is currently in the registry of the U.S. District Court for the NMI. The funds were seized on the authority of the writs of execution the court gave Pacific Rim. He did not indicate the amount of seized funds

but Thompson now wants the District Court to authorize the release of that money to Pacific Rim to pay off part of the court's \$6.9-million judgment against IPI.

IPI general counsel Michael Dotts stated in court papers filed recently in court that IPI has already satisfied about \$3.1 million of the judgment following the court's first and second writs of execution, but the \$6.9-million judgment granted to Pacific Rim has not been satisfied in full.

Last April 27, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona entered a judgment in favor of Pacific Rim in the amount of \$5.65 million against IPI. She later amended the judgment to incorporate pre-judgment interest and attorneys' fees, boosting the amount to \$6.9 million plus post-judgment

interest.

In Pacific Rim's motion on Thursday, Thompson pointed out that Manglona had granted Pacific Rim's application for two writs of execution on IPI money being held in several banks in the CNMI and by Pacific American Title Inc. and Security Title Inc. Yet IPI did not object or challenge the applications for writs of execution, nor did it file a motion to reconsider the court's approvals of those applications and resulting writs of execution, and did not request a hearing to determine whether an exemption applies to the money seized.

Thompson said IPI would have filed a challenge to the writs if it believed it had any valid reason to file a challenge. He said this is demonstrated by IPI filing in response to the third application

for a writ of execution, this one asking the court to authorize the seizure of IPI property at its Imperial Pacific Resort & Casino in Garapan. IPI objected to this, arguing that Pacific Rim should have filed an order in aid of judgment. Thompson said this demonstrates that IPI is capable of objecting to writ applications. Nevertheless, he said, IPI did not file any objections or motions regarding the first two applications or the resulting writs of execution.

The lawyer said the Superior Court has held that the exemptions found in the CNMI statute do not apply to business entities such as IPI. Therefore, he said, Pacific Rim wants the money seized by the U.S. Marshal to be transferred to Pacific Rim to satisfy the judgment against IPI.

Last Thursday, Manglona

denied Pacific Rim's two other requests to seize IPI's money from Bank of Saipan and personal property.

Manglona set the motion for an order in aid of judgment for a hearing on July 23, 2020 to determine IPI's ability to pay and the fastest manner in which it can reasonably pay the balance of the \$6.9-million judgment.

The judge said Pacific Rim may reapply, but it must demonstrate good cause why the

court should issue a writ.

Hundreds of IPI workers recently held protests in front of the District Court after they failed to get their two paychecks, allegedly because of the court's writ of execution that resulted in the seizure and closure of IPI's payroll account with the Bank of Saipan.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators in order to be paid for the work it did on the casino project. IPI has countersued.

Benavente: Still no response on CW-1 PUA eligibility

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor reports that they have yet to hear from the Office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-Saipan) in response to their inquiry whether CNMI-Only Transitional Workers qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

According to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, she has not heard directly from Sablan but, according to his staff, he would be contacting the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary directly, Eugene Scalia, regarding the CW-1 issue with PUA.

However, CNMI DOL has

yet to receive any updates on the matter since last week Wednesday.

"I have not spoken with Delegate Kilili but I have spoken to the staff of Kilili and I was informed that he would be contacting the U.S. DOL Secretary regarding CW-1 issues for PUA eligibility so after that conversation I have not received a response," she said.

Back on June 15, Benavente informed Sablan of the need to pass legislation to make contract workers in the CNMI, also called CNMI-Only Transitional Workers, eligible for PUA and FPUC because the CARES Act is silent on any exceptions for foreign work-

ers. Still, Benavente is encouraging CW-1 holders to apply for PUA.

Additionally, DOL has added four new phone lines to the PUA hotline because many have voiced their frustrations about not being able to reach the initial six lines. "We added four more lines because we were getting challenges with the telephone where the callers would call in and they would hear a ringing sound and that was actually a call waiting," she said.

The newly added phone lines are open to PUA applicants to ask for assistance in filling out PUA applications. Benavente said applicants

may also visit the DOL office on Capitol Hill for inquiries on the application or to follow up applications that have already been submitted.

"We can assist PUA applicants when you come up to the department. We will assist you with your inquiries like how, how long, how much but please, be patient, we are trying to assist everyone," she said.

The additional PUA hotlines are: 670-664-3296; 670-664-3297; 670-664-3299; and 670-664-3296.

You may also contact 989-9089; 989-9090; 989-9080; 989-9081; 989-9083; 989-9084.

'Giving Table' offers relief goods

The non-profit group "Giving Table" handed out relief goods such as non-perishable food items, canned goods, and rice last Friday in front of Dandan Middle School as many island residents continue to struggle during this COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Rep. Edwin Propst (D-Saipan), "Giving Table is an idea put together by some friends who wanted to pay forward and help people in our villages. Whatever is collected would be given out at different places on austerity Fridays."

"There is no need to sign up for anything, people can pull up and take what they need. People can also drop off or donate canned goods as well for others. You take what you need, you give what you can," Propst added.

Each individual received a sack of rice and a bag of four canned food. Donations came from a group of friends and family members.

Last Friday, "we did not

count how many vehicles pulled up. Some took more than one bag, which is fine, as they can take additional bags if they have a bigger family or if they have a neighbor to give to," Propst said.

"Giving Table" will also be there this coming Friday morning at the Dandan Middle School bus stop in front of the school.

Propst said that no family should ever go hungry. "It would be great to see this expanded to every village. Hunger is an issue and it is not limited to the homeless. My family and I are not rich, but we have offered whatever we have in our home to help others in dire need," said Propst. "We have hundreds of families in need of help right now, many of whom may not even qualify for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. Please help whenever you can, however you can. Donate. Volunteer. It all starts with each of us." *(Chevy Alipio)*



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-COTA/FTA-088

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 07, 2020 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF EIGHT (8)
MEDIUM-DUTY LOW FLOOR 2020 OR NEWER
ADA ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT BUS FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"**

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****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY AT MS. ALFREDA P. CAMACHO VIA EMAIL ONLY TO alfreda.camacho@gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, 04:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JULY 23, 2020.** ALL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL POTENTIAL BIDDERS. **QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.**


THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-DOC/SBDC-089

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 07, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"2020-2021 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR
A MARKETING COORDINATOR FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, CNMI SMALL
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER DIVISION"**

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/S/ MARK O. RABULIMAN
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP20-DOC/SBDC-090 (A-C)

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 07, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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BUSINESS ADVISORS FOR A.) SAIPAN, B.)
TINIAN, AND C.) ROTA FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE, CNMI SMALL BUSINESS
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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARK O. RABULIMAN
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Animal protection law is enacted

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Animal lovers can now breathe a sigh of relief, following the passage of the CNMI Public Law 21-31, or the Animal Protection Act, which prohibits cruelty and theft of animals, and makes their cruel mistreatment, abandonment, and cruel neglect illegal.

Introduced by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), the law defines cruel mistreatment as knowingly torturing and inflicting unnecessary physical injury on an animal, or to kill in a manner that causes suffering to the animal; while cruel neglect is to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly fail to provide an ani-

mal with its basic needs, including proper medical care.

"It will finally be illegal to torture domesticated animals, and officers will be able to intervene in cases where animals are tortured, abused, or neglected," Propst said, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

The law is a huge win for animal rights advocates and is finally passed a decade since the first animal protection bill was introduced in the CNMI.

"It took multiple tries in multiple legislatures, from former congressman Stanley McGinness Torres, who introduced it three times, to myself and co-sponsors of the bill, who also introduced it three times. I thank Speaker Blas Jonathan Teno-

rio Attao and my colleagues in the House, and Senate President Victor Hocog and colleagues in the Senate, for making history," he added.

Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan), following the Animal Protection Act's passage, said that "until this law, the CNMI was the last jurisdiction in the nation to have no animal protections, no ban on cruelty to animals, on the books."

Public hearings were held on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, where the legislators heard from the community, businesses, and government departments and agencies, including all four mayors, as well as the Humane Society International, and Saipan Cares For Animals.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CHANGES

From Page 1

the U.S. mainland, and other areas around the Marianas.

"While the CNMI continues to have one of the lowest numbers of COVID-19 cases in both the U.S. and in the world, we know that there are increasing number of areas around us with spikes in cases, particularly in Guam and in the U.S. mainland, where most of our current travelers are coming in from," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. "As we have continued to do as a community since January under the leadership of Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres, CHCC CEO [Esther] Muña, and our COVID-19 Task Force, the CNMI is taking additional action now to keep our islands safe and to maintain the safety of our gradual reopening plan for our residents, our businesses, and our travelers.

Any person entering the CNMI may be exempted from the CNMI government approved quarantine facility if they complete **ALL** of the following steps:

- Fill out an online CNMI Mandatory Declaration Form at least three days prior to their arrival on Saipan at <http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19/travel>;

- Register and respond daily to the Sara Alert Symptom Monitoring System* for 14 consecutive days, starting on the first day after arrival, and while awaiting results of testing, must exercise self-quarantine** as prescribed by CHCC;

- Consent to specimen collection for COVID-19 testing upon arrival (before exiting the airport or seaport) and five days after arrival;

- Provide proof of a valid polymerase chain reaction test from a specimen collected a minimum of three days to a maximum of six days prior to the individual's arrival on Saipan to be reviewed by a

CNMI Health Representative.

- A valid proof PCR test result is defined as a traveler's specimen collected within 3-6 days prior to arrival. The test result must be in English and have: the name of the traveler; name of the processing laboratory; specimen collection date; indication that the PCR test was conducted; the test result itself;

- * The Sara Alert Symptom Monitoring System allows CNMI public health representatives to enroll and follow up with individuals at risk of developing a COVID-19 infection. Enrolled individuals can report daily on any symptoms they are having to reduce transmission and exposure in our community. If you are non-responsive or report any symptoms, a CNMI health representative will contact you and provide further instruction.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PSS

From Page 1

COVID-19, but slashed it to \$20 million, given the economic shortfall the CNMI is facing due to the pandemic. However, at yesterday's House Ways and Means Committee hearing, when Education chair Rep. Roman Benavente (R-Saipan) asked if \$20 million will be enough for PSS to operate sustainably, Education Com-

missioner Dr. Alfred Ada flat out said "no," adding that they would need at least \$25 million.

"Right now, our classroom teachers have been placed under [64-hour] work week. To be honest about it, this equates to shortchanging our students," he said.

PSS has already furloughed 710 of its teachers and staff. Ada said this has created low morale and stress, prompting some teachers to leave. "For the past three months,

the pandemic has affected PSS and this will still be dramatically affecting the operations and costs for PSS in the coming months and years. ... When we shortchange the teachers, we shortchange the students. And when we shortchange the students, we shortchange the future of the CNMI," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

KENSINGTON

From Page 1

Cavanagh said they are looking into the possibility of opening PIC's outlets, especially their outdoor happy hour, but probably not until this August or September. "I don't see the value in opening now," said Cavanagh.

She said Kensington wants to introduce itself to the local market and that their new chief operating officer, Brian Shin, has an aggressive vision to expand this, including banquets.

Both PIC and Kensington, as well as the Coral Ocean Golf Resort, are

all under the E-Land Group umbrella, a Seoul-based company. Of all three, PIC is a different concept, Cavanagh said, in that it is more labor intensive because of its dynamic Clubmates and waterpark.

Cavanagh, who is also chairperson of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, noted that Hyatt Regency Saipan and Surf Club Rider are, so far, the only hotels that have remained open. With the addition of Kensington, there is more than enough inventory of available rooms for now, she said.

International flights are supposed to resume in September but, Cavanagh said, it will be in the latter part of that month. "Our target to re-

open is based on when the demand comes back," she said.

Hotels have shut down operations due to suspension of international flights last March 22 as a result of the global COVID-19 outbreak.

While the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport is opening to international flights by July 15, flights from Asia are not expected to start coming in until September.

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair King-Hinds said in a recent interview that it's not only Skymark Airlines Inc. that will continue to suspend its flights until September, but also all airlines from China and South Korea.

Aircraft returns to Tinian after landing gear glitch

A Star Marianas Air flight from Tinian to Saipan was forced to return to Tinian last Sunday, July 5, 2020, after experiencing problems with its landing gear.

According to a Commonwealth Ports Authority statement on the incident, the Star Marianas plane called the Saipan Air Traffic Control Tower last

Sunday to inform the ATCT that the aircraft was having landing gear issues.

The flight did not land on Saipan but rather returned to land on Tinian instead, according to CPA personnel that overheard the radio transmission. The aircraft successfully landed in Tinian and remains there for maintenance. No alert was declared. **(PR)**

Special Asiana flight on July 27

Seoul-based Asiana Airlines will have a special Seoul-Saipan-Seoul flight on July 27, 2020, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The flight will be the first flight to the Marianas from Korea that is open to the public since the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the suspension of flights on March 22, 2020. Two previous Asiana charter flights from Seoul were restricted solely to returning Marianas residents. South Korea is the CNMI's No. 1 tourist market.

"According to our partners at Asiana Airlines, they have opened this one flight to the public, although it is expected that passengers will again be mostly returning residents. This flight is also going to be a direct and convenient way for residents to get to Seoul to make connections

elsewhere, should they need to," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "We hope this is a positive sign that there is a returning interest in leisure travel. Of course, all inbound passengers to the Marianas will need to comply with the COVID-19-related entry requirements set in place by the government."

The flight will depart Seoul International Airport at 9am, arriving at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 2:30pm. The flight will then return to Seoul on the same day at 4pm, arriving at 7:40pm. One hundred seventy-four seats are available.

Bookings may be made through the Asiana Airlines website at www.fly-asiana.com or local travel agents, or by calling the Asiana office on Saipan at 1 (670) 288-2625/2626. **(PR)**

SEARCH

From Page 1

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, DPS had no updates on the whereabouts of Encabo as of yesterday, and would resume their search at first light today.

Pangelinan said the U.S. Coast Guard, Division of Fish and Wildlife boats, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and the DPS Search and Rescue Unit have all joined forces in search of Encabo.

Encabo was part of a group of three who had gone to the area for a hiking trip. He was with Analyn Pabilona, one of the victim's companions, and his girlfriend, whose name could not be immediately ascertained. They were reportedly along the edge of a natural formation called "infinity pool" in As Teo when Encabo slipped and fell.

According to Pabilona, Encabo fought as hard as he could to rejoin them soon after being swept to sea, despite being weakened by the numerous cuts and scrapes on his body, an injured knee, and his head crashing into a rock.

Pabilona said they arrived in As Teo at around 2:30pm on Sunday and started their hike down the cliff that leads to the "infinity pool" to go swimming. When the group got to the bottom, they each had about two bottles of Smirnoff before taking a dip into the shallow end of the pool.

At about 4:30pm, Pabilona said the three of them walked farther out from the shallow end of the pool to take photos. After taking a few photos, Pabilona said they followed behind Encabo who walked further out to the end of the "infinity pool" where a huge wave crashed into them.

Pabilona said the huge wave almost took them all out but she and Encabo's girlfriend were only

knocked over and were able to grab on to some coral. Unfortunately, they soon noticed that Encabo was no longer where he had been originally standing and they soon saw that he had been swept out and dragged to a spot full of sharp rocks. That's when they noticed he had a long slice on his jaw and his head was bleeding.

Pabilona said Encabo still managed to fight the current and transfer to another spot where he was able to get on top of a rock but he was bleeding everywhere and seemed to be slowly losing consciousness from the loss of blood.

That's when Pabilona called for help to another group of people who were just about to leave. However, because of the shock that she was in, she could barely call out to them. Luckily, Pabilona said, she knew a person in the group and managed to get to him for help and told him about their situation. He and his friends immediately rushed to the spot to try and help.

Upon returning to the spot, Pabilona said she recalled Encabo was still on the rock and he was still alive. Pabilona added that Encabo could still talk while they called the police.

At a little past 5pm, Encabo fell into the water again because of another large wave, Pabilona said, and although he tried to fight the current for a while, they soon lost sight of him.

Police arrived past 6pm, according to Pabilona, but they couldn't dive into the water because the current had gotten too strong.

Pabilona recalled that two police officers came down to the pool while the rest waited at the top to interview them. Police called off the search around 7pm.

Before letting go of the rock he was holding on to, Pabilona said Encabo managed to tell his girlfriend don't try anymore and just go back for the sake of their 1-year-old son.

MINA rangers find sea turtle carcass

Rangers of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance have found a sea turtle carcass dumped outside the As Matuis water tank, prompting the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to warn yesterday that it will provide additional enforcement against turtle poaching in line with federal and local laws.

The MINA Tasi Watch Community Rangers reported finding the sea turtle carcass on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. The MINA Rangers, along with staff from the DLNR Sea Turtle Program, collected and surrendered the remains to the Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Enforcement Section.

In the past four months, six turtle poaching incidents have occurred, three of which occurred in one week. Nesting sea turtles in the Mariana Islands are at risk of extinction due to illegal harvesting. Less than 20 female green sea turtles remain in our resident population, and this number continues to decline.

“Sea turtles are an endangered species and are vital to our unique ecosystem here in the Marianas. Our government will continue to work with our federal partners on imposing penalties on violators for these serious offenses,” said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony T. Benavente reminded the public that sea turtles are endangered species and harassing or harvesting these animals is considered a federal offense. “If you are caught, you will not be treated with leniency. Depending on the severity of the situation, you may be fined up to \$25,000 and be imprisoned for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rangers of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance have find this sea turtle carcass dumped outside the As Matuis water tank.

up to six months,” he added.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife are offering monetary rewards for information leading to an arrest of individuals in connection with sea turtle poaching activities in the CNMI.

Sea turtles are protected by federal (Endangered Species Act) and local laws (CNMI Public Law 2-51). The taking of any sea turtle, of any size class, is against the law. Fines and penalties can range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and up to six months imprisonment.

If you have any information regarding poaching incidents, call the CNMI Sea Turtle Hotline at 670-287-8537 or DFW Enforcement at 670-285-2287 to make an anonymous report. *(PR)*

PRIDE Talks writing contest winners

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council congratulates the winners for its first PRIDE Talks Writing Competition for the LGBTQ+ community in the CNMI this June for PRIDE month. The categories for submissions were: poem, essay or short story.

The winners for the competition from each island are:

Tinian

1st Place: Pedro Manglona, “I Know a Boy” \$500

2nd Place: Joseph Hocog, “The Creation of LGBTIQ Pride” \$300

Rota

1st Place: Colin Jay S.

Cruz, “Your Out is My Out” \$500

2nd Place: Freya Deshae C. Greathouse, “Mirror Image” \$300

3rd Place: Jermaine Chloe B. Young, “It’s Okay We’re Normal” \$100

Saipan

1st Place: Leovita Cabrera, “A Crowded Closet” \$500

2nd Place: Thomas Manglona, “Gateways” \$300

3rd Place: Prudencio Cabrera, “Heels” \$100

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council would like to thank the judges who volunteered their time to score all the submissions. *(PR)*



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of July 3, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality, Division of Coastal Resources Management	06/02/2020 SLR-2020-X-051	DCRM Coral Culture Facility	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 06/22/2020
2. Marianas Geotech Services	06/11/2020 SP-2020-X-044, Amendment 2020-1	Geotechnical Investigation of Delta Dock	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 06/22/2020
3. Wondersea Saipan, Inc.	06/12/2020 STLR-2018-X-103-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/19/2020
4. Hana Tour Service Inc. dba Saipan Hana Tour	06/12/2020 SLR-2018-X-137-R3	Snorkeling Tour Operation	Mañagaha, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/19/2020
5. Korea Tourism Inc. dba Korean Tours Bureau	06/12/2020 SLR-2018-X-138-R3	Snorkeling Tour Operation	Mañagaha, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/23/2020
6. Saipan Coral Reef, Inc. dba Coral Reef	06/15/2020 SLR-2018-X-131-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/19/2020
7. B Sea Inc. dba B Sea Sunsports	06/15/2020 SLR-2018-X-076-R3	Banana Boat, Snorkeling	Saipan Lagoon & All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/23/2020
8. B Sea Inc. dba B Sea Sunsports	06/15/2020 SLR-2018-X-077-R3	Parasailing	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/23/2020
9. IRIE, Inc./Blue Palms	06/15/2020 RLR-2018-X-0611-R3	SCUBA Diving Operation	All Designated Dive Sites on Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/19/2020
10. JB International Holding Limited dba Uncle J Dive	06/16/2020 SLR-2020-X-013-R1	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	Obyan Beach, Lau Lau Bay, & Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/23/2020
11. Open Knowledge Systems Inc. dba Let's Go Diving	06/16/2020 SLR-2018-X-134-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/23/2020
12. Saipan Stevedore, Inc.	06/16/2020 TPI-2020-X-09	Stevedore Warehouse, Office Building Repair & Rehab Work	San Jose, Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
13. Office of Grants Management	06/16/2020 SS-2020-X-010	Solar Lights Installation	Tinian Kammer Beach Pathway & Recreational Port Area	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
14. Marianas Seas Adventures Inc.	06/17/2020 SLR-2018-X-071-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/23/2020
15. Saipan A-Venture, LLC Dba Saipan Adventure	06/23/2020 SLR-2018-X-099-R3	Snorkeling Tour Operatio	Grotto, Lau Lau Beach, Forbidden Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/30/2020
16. Shim Corporation dba Pro Divers Saipan	06/23/2020 STLR-2018-X-100-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/23/2020
17. Macro Energy, Inc.	06/24/2020 SLR-2020-X-123-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	Grotto, Lau Lau Bay, Obyan Beach, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
18. Selfish Saipan, Inc.	06/24/2020 SLR-3019-X-038-R2	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	Grotto, Lau Lau Bay, Obyan Beach, Saipan	Lagoon & Ree	Under Review
19. Time Creation Corporation dba TCC Diving Tour	06/26/2020 SLR-2018-X-070-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
20. United Front Co., LTD. dba Super Fish Diving	06/26/2020 SLR-2018-X-085-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
21. Thank You Saipan Corporation dba Thank You Saipan Diving	06/26/2020 SLR-2018-X-072-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation, Helmet Diving, Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
22. National Park Service	06/29/2020 SP-2020-X-050	Geotechnical Soil Survey	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
23. Song & Jang Corporation dba B & B Grotto	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-074-R3	Snorkeling Tour Operation	Grotto, East Bay, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
24. Ben & Ki Watersports, LLC	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-140-R3	Banana Boat & Wakeboard	Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
25. Ben & Ki Watersports, LLC	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-139-R3	Personal Watercraft & Snorkeling	Fiesta Resort Beach Area, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
26. Sydney J. Takahashy dba Fishguyz Scuba & Charter	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-141-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
27. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-083-R3	Snorkeling, Kayak, & Banana Boat	Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
28. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-084-R3	Personal Watercraft & Wakeboard	Fiesta Resort Beach Area, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
29. Aqua Del Rey Saipan Inc.	06/29/2020 SLR-2020-X-027-R2	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
30. Kwon & Byun Corporation dba Saipan Atty Dive	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-122-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Dives Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
31. J & K Marine Sports, Inc. dba J & K Marine Sports	06/30/2020 SLR-2018-X-069-R3	Banana Boat, Snorkeling, & Wakeboard	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
32. J & K Marine Sports, Inc. dba J & K Marine Sports	06/30/2020 SLR-2018-X-102-R3	Personal Watercraft with Accessory Use (Jetovator)	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
33. Island Marine Sports, Inc.	06/30/2020 SLR-2018-X-110-R3	Parasailing	Designated Parasailing Zone – Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
34. Asia Pacific, Inc. dba Asia Marine Sports	06/30/2020 SLR-2018-X-111-R3	Banana Boat & Snorkeling Tour Operation	Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
35. Marine Tech (Saipan), Inc. dba S2 Club	07/01/2020 STLR-2018-X-130-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
36. Deep Blue, Inc. dba Deep Blue Diving	07/01/2020 STLR-2018-X-098-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
37. Tropical Leisure Sports, Inc. Dba TLSI	07/01/2020 SLR-2018-X-068-R3	Banana Boat, Parasailing, & Personal Watercraft (PWC)	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
38. CNS Inc.	07/01/2020 SLR-2018-X-135-R3	Personal Watercraft, Kayak, Snorkeling, & Stand Up Paddle	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
39. John Paul Palacios Sablan, 21st House of Representatives	07/01/2020 SSm-2020-X-052	Six Beach Pala Palas	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Ninth Circuit names the 2020 Civics Contest winners

SAN FRANCISCO—Young people from California and Nevada have been selected the winners of the 2020 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, an educational outreach effort to high school students sponsored by the U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit.

“The Right to Vote: Milestone Anniversaries” was the theme of the contest. Students in grades 9-12 in public, pri-

vate and parochial schools and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status were challenged to write an essay or produce a short video with the questions presented: “In the wake of the 15th and 19th Amendments, barriers remained to prevent United States citizens from voting. Do formal or informal barriers remain today? What additional changes would you make, if any, to

Americans’ voting rights?”

“The Ninth Circuit is strongly committed to educating young people about how the judiciary and the rule of law work in our society, and the Civics Contest has been an important part of our community outreach over the past five years,” said Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas.

Winners in the essay competition are:

■ First place: Elinor Amir-Lobel of La Jolla Country Day School in La Jolla, California;

■ Second place: Olivia Chen of Arcadia High School in Arcadia, California; and

■ Third place: Danielle Amir-Lobel also of La Jolla Country Day School.

Winners in the video competition are:

■ First place: The team of Mandy Jiang, Cathleen Liang

and Michelle Liang of West Career & Technical Academy in Las Vegas;

■ Second place – Divya Ganesan, of Castilleja School in Palo Alto, California; and Third place: The team of Sandar Aung, Amina Boulakhras and Nesrine Maidi also of West Career & Technical Academy.

The winning essays and videos will be posted on the contest website, <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/> in July.

“We typically receive around a thousand entries each year and, despite the coronavirus challenges, we received approximately the same number this year from all over the Circuit. The entries are always excellent, and congratulations are due to the educators and students who participated,” Thomas said.

The competition was open to students in grades 9-12 in public, private and parochial schools and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status in nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions. Despite challenges posed by school closures and distance learning due to the coronavirus pandemic, nearly 1,000 students entered the contest.

Federal courts in all 15 judicial districts in the Ninth Circuit held local contests with winners going on to compete in the circuit-wide competition. In all, 38 essays and 27 videos were selected for final consideration by judges, at-

torneys, court executives, law clerks, court and library staff, and the Public Information and Community Outreach Committee, which organized the contest. Blind judging was employed in both the preliminary and final rounds.

“It is gratifying that so many people gave generously of their time to contribute to the civics education program and to help our youth become knowledgeable and informed citizens. The quality of the essays and videos were excellent,” said U.S. District Judge Janis L. Sammartino of San Diego, who chairs the PICO Committee.

At the circuit level, prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 will be awarded to 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-place winners in both the essay and video competition. Prize money for the winners are funded through attorney admission fees collected by the federal courts in the Ninth Circuit to fund educational programs for the bar and community.

The Ninth Circuit Public Information and Community Outreach Committee was established in 2000 by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, the governing body for federal courts in the West. The committee seeks to promote public understanding of and confidence in the judicial system through civics education and outreach to the community and media. The committee includes federal judges, lawyers, and court staff. **(PR)**

MCS valedictorian earns multiple awards

Mount Carmel School recognizes 2020 graduate Kalea Lou Bullan Borja for earning multiple awards in her graduating class despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Borja is a graduate from Mount Carmel School’s Class of 2020. She earned the highest grade point average in her class and was recognized as the valedictorian for this year’s commencement ceremony. In addition to receiving the valedictorian award and many others, Borja also served as the student council president and worked part-time at Summer Snow in Susupe.

During the MCS Commencement Ceremony, Borja received the President’s Award, Governor’s Leadership Award, Loyalty Award, English Language Arts Award, Speech Award, and Drama Award.

“Kalea is one of our most driven and promising graduates,” said MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. “It’s one thing to be studious, but Kalea has always aimed to exceed expectations in all aspects of her life. Despite her obligations, Kalea continued to make a positive difference for her student body during our Leadership Team meetings and school events.”



Mount Carmel School recognizes 2020 graduate Kalea Lou Bullan Borja for earning multiple awards in her graduating class despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mount Carmel School’s Commencement Ceremony was held on June 20, 2020, at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Later this summer, Borja will be relocating to Hawaii to attend University of Hawaii Manoa for psychology and will be taking online classes through the University of California Los Angeles for a pre-medical degree.

“I am extremely grate-

ful for the school’s efforts to continuously provide us with education and support even if it’s from an online platform,” Borja said. “Mount Carmel took this obstacle and worked many miracles to help not only the seniors, but the entire

\$80M grants expand apprenticeship program

The Northern Marianas College has been awarded \$300,000 as part of the more than \$80 million the U.S. Department of Labor is handing out nationwide to support activities that improve states’ ability to serve, improve, and expand the Registered Apprenticeship Program model by strengthening the national apprenticeship system, promoting system alignment and partnership, and improving data sharing and data integrity.

Among the many beneficiaries, Guam’s Department of Administration is awarded \$300,000 and the U.S. Virgin Islands’ Department of Labor will get \$300,000.

The “Building State Capacity to Expand Apprenticeship through Innovation” grants support statewide RAP expansion through a two-tiered

funding system that provides states with maximum flexibility to address local apprenticeship needs while enhancing the focus on employer engagement, performance, and positive outcomes for apprentices. Administered by the Department’s Employment and Training Administration, the department awarded grants to 42 states and U.S. territories.

The department awarded a total of \$80,639,041 to states and U.S. territories that applied for Tier I funding to help support the programs’ goals. In addition to Tier I funding, 12 states received additional funds under Tier II, ranging from \$3 million to \$9 million, based on the number and quality of Tier II applications received, as well as strong evidence of past performance in expanding

RAPs; other factors included geographic, industry and Tier II goal distribution. With these additional funds, the selected states will go above-and-beyond supporting the state’s basic Registered Apprenticeship structures in the state.

Visit www.apprenticeship.gov to learn more about the department’s broader efforts to connect career seekers with apprenticeship opportunities and to expand apprenticeship into new sectors and industries.

ETA administers federal job training and dislocated worker programs, federal grants to states for public employment service programs and unemployment insurance benefits. These services are provided primarily through state and local workforce development systems. **(PR)**

CUC ADVISORIES

Water outage in entire Kagman

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled water service interruption for the entire Kagman area on Thursday, July 9, 2020, from 8am to 4pm.

The purpose of the scheduled water interruption is to allow CUC’s contractor, Hong Ye Construction, to perform system improvements by relocating existing water service lines to the distribution line for a more reliable water system. In addition, a new 8-inch gate valve will be installed located at the Chacha Road and Kagman Road intersection.

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**

Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be sched-

uled power interruptions on July 9-10, 2020.

As CUC continues its ongoing system improvements of damages that occurred from Super Typhoon Yutu, there will be scheduled power interruptions to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely straighten leaning wooden power poles and to install a new primary power pole due to encroachment within the aforementioned affected areas. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

Thursday, July 9, 2020 — 8:30am to 12:30pm

■ Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Kiya 3 circuit

■ Project location: Gualo Rai

■ Power service area(s) affected: Ghiyobw Street in Gualo Rai (lateral going down the Old Japanese Jail)

■ Water well(s) affected: None

■ Wastewater lift station(s)

affected: None

Thursday, July 9, 2020 — 10m to 4pm

■ Outage type: Sectionalized outage on Feeder 4

■ Project location: Capitol Hill

■ Power service area(s) affected: Isleta Ct. in Capitol Hill

■ Water well(s) affected: None

■ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

Friday, July 10, 2020 — 8:30am to 10:30am

■ Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Kiya 2 circuit

■ Project location: As Perdido

■ Power service area(s) affected: Aplok Dr., Bayak Dr., and Faha PI in As Perdido

■ Water well(s) affected: None

■ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**

Boat on its way to Pagan sinks in Alamagan

On Friday, June 26, 2020, at about 2pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety Impact boat was approached by an individual and informed of an overdue vessel that had not made it to the island of Pagan. The individual stated that they were aboard another vessel while their privately owned white, fiberglass, 20-foot boat, was driven by two other individuals who did not make it to the island of Pagan.

Police learned from the two crew members that sometime around 4pm they left Saipan en route to Pagan with another vessel on Thursday, June 25, 2020. At around 10pm that night the 20-foot

boat began to experience engine troubles and lost sight of the other vessel it was following. The two crew members proceeded north and arrived on the island of Guguan at around 7am the next morning. The crew decided to anchor and take a rest break before proceeding north.

At about 12pm, the two crew members left the island of Guguan and headed for the island of Alamagan. Sometime around 5pm, the crew made it to the island and anchored the boat just outside the village in Alamagan. One crew member proceeded up to the village in Alamagan to notify the other vessel they were following that they had

made it safely to Alamagan. The crew members returned back to the anchored boat to catch some rest.

At about 3am on Saturday, June 27, 2020, the crew members woke up and noticed that the boat had drifted about six miles from the island while it was taking in water. The crew managed to get the engine started and slowly made their way back toward Alamagan. Within about 100 feet from the shoreline, the crew had to abandon ship as the boat began submerging underwater. The two crew members swam into shore as they awaited the impact rescue boat. **(PR)**

Sunday beach cleanup nets 125 bags of trash



Volunteers pick up the trash that had been washed up by the tides at the Old Man by the Sea beach. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group of volunteers spent time picking up trash that had been washed up by the tides at the Old Man by the Sea beach last June 28, collecting 125 bags that would be equivalent to 800 lbs of garbage.

According to Jingle Moss, who organized the cleanup, she and the husband, Mark Moss, were saddened by the amount of trash that had been washed ashore. “A lot of bags of trash piled up on one side of the beach,” she said.

An estimated 50 volunteers were there to help clean up. “We were only expecting 10 of our friends to show up. Surprisingly, when we arrived, we saw a group of friends whom we just met had already started

cleaning up,” she said.

TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, who is also a member of the Marianas Visitors Authority board, thanked and praised the volunteers for taking the initiative. “During this pandemic, beaches, hiking trails, and other sites on our island serve as refuge for residents looking for worthwhile activities while still observing safety guidelines set by authorities,” Tan said.

“Tourists speak highly of our islands, how they are in awe of the lush greens covering our jungles and the crystal-clear waters of our beaches. We are a proud tourist destination and tourism drives our economy,” added Tan, who is co-chair of the Governor’s

Council of Economic Advisers. “We are very fortunate to have these beautiful places and we must do our part to maintain its cleanliness so we, and our visitors, will continue to enjoy Mother Nature’s creations. We hope that these volunteers’ work will inspire others to do the same to protect our environment. This is our island paradise, let’s keep it that way.”

“It is extremely important to keep our beaches clean, not only for the residents, but to visitors as well to show how much we care for the environment. We keep our house clean, we have to keep our environment clean as well,” Moss added. **(Chevy Alipio)**

IT&E warns of scam survey

Telecommunications company IT&E has discovered that an unknown third party is posing as IT&E and sending fraudulent offers to its customers.

The fraudulent notification tells customers they have a chance to win a Samsung Galaxy S10, iPhone XS or Samsung Galaxy S9 from IT&E, and that in order to enter to win, they must complete a survey to evaluate IT&E services.

IT&E said that this message, survey and giveaway were not sent or approved by IT&E. “At this time, IT&E is not hosting any giveaways. All official contests and giveaways are announced on IT&E’s official social media and website,” the company said.

To protect their customers, IT&E does not recommend clicking on the link, taking the survey or responding to the message.

For more information or to report suspicious activity, contact IT&E at (671) 922-4483 in Guam or (670) 682-4483 in the CNMI.

hanging up immediately. Your information only becomes compromised if you provide information during the call.

IT&E does not verify account information using WhatsApp. If you get requests for account information for any institution, call your institution at its official businesses phone number or visit to verify the request.

IT&E is currently collecting data to report the calls to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). IT&E is taking action to limit such calls and messages to the greatest extent possible.

Subscribers with concerns or that would like to report a suspicious call or message can reach the IT&E Customer Care Center at (670) 682-4483 [CNMI] / (671) 922-4483 [GUAM] or by visiting www.ite.net to send a message.

To combat robocalls and scams, the FCC provides the following tips for consumers:

- Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. Let them go to voicemail. If the caller claims to be from a legitimate company or organization, hang up and call them back using a valid number found on their website or on your latest bill if you do business with them.
- If you answer and the

caller (often a recording) asks you to press a button to stop receiving calls or asks you to say "yes" in response to a question, just hang up. Scammers often use these tricks to identify, and then target, live respondents, or to use your "yes" to apply unauthorized charges on your bill.

- Be Aware: Caller ID showing a "local" number no longer means it is necessarily a local caller.
- If you answer and the caller asks for payment using a gift card, it's likely a scam. Legitimate organizations like law enforcement will not ask for payment with a gift card.
- If you receive a scam call, file a complaint with the FCC Consumer Complaint Center online at www.fcc.gov by selecting the "phone" option and selecting "unwanted calls." The data collected helps the FCC track trends and supports our enforcement investigations.
- If you have lost money because of a scam call, contact your local law enforcement agency for assistance.
- Consider registering your telephone numbers in the National Do Not Call Registry. Lawful telemarketers use this list to avoid calling consumers on the list.

For more information about the FCC and their efforts, visit <https://www.fcc.gov>. **(PR)**

‘Be vigilant’

IT&E has received reports of suspicious voice calls, WhatsApp calls and WhatsApp messages from local and off-island phone numbers.

IT&E advises subscribers to never provide personal information, such as social security numbers or banking information, over the phone or via WhatsApp without verifying the request.

Suspicious calls include robocalls, which contain pre-recorded message, as if from a robot. A robocall could be a scam if the caller asks for personal information. The callers often replicate local phone numbers, which appear on caller ID and hide the actual number. If you receive such a call, IT&E recommends

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-DPL-082
SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 30, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.
“CHARTERED VESSEL FOR TWO (2) ROUND TRIPS –
SAIPAN/ANATAHAN/SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS”
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIANNE C. TEREGEYO
SECRETARY, DPL

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES F0197
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E-mail: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com

Attorney for Petitioner Catherine Marie Attao

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VICENTE CABRERA ATTAO
DOB: 7/19/52
Decedent.
AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DATE: July 9, 2020
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
JUDGE: Joseph Norita Camacho
LOCATED: Supreme Court courtroom

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE VICENTE CABRERA OR HIS ESTATE:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Catherine Marie Attao has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the ESTATE OF VICENTE CABRERA ATTAO, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.
The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at this hearing.
Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or her Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or daim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the above address.
Respectfully submitted this 5th day of June 2020.
/s/ CLERK OF COURT/DEPUTY CLERK

Oliver M. Manglona (F0489)
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 285-3750 | Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Regina Victoria Pangelinan

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EMILIA PANGELINAN PALACIOS FKA EMILIA PANGELINAN SABLAN,
Deceased.
Civil Action No. 20-0184
NOTICE OF HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF A ADMINISTRATOR, and
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho
Date: July 23, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Courtroom: Supreme Court

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE EMILIA PANGELINAN PALACIOS FKA EMILIA PANGELINAN SABLAN:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Regina Victoria Pangelinan has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Emilia Pangelinan Palacios fka Emilia Pangelinan Sablan, Decedent. The attorney for Petitioner is Oliver Manglona, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.
The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Regina Victoria Pangelinan, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **JULY 23, 2020 at 10:00a.m.**, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana, *Guma' Huestis*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.
Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent or her Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **OLIVER M. MANGLONA, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.**
Dated this 29th day of June, 2020.
/s/ CLERK OF COURT/DEPUTY CLERK

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES CAMACHO MANGLONA,
Deceased.
Civil Action No. 20-0186-CV

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION and NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: JAMES CAMACHO MANGLONA, DECEASED
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of CONNIE MANGLONA TABACAN for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the **23rd day of July, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Supreme Court courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands before Judge Joseph N. Camacho. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.
For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on the file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net.
Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, JAMES CAMACHO MANGLONA, or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.
It is further ordered, to avoid any unnecessary delays: (1) those who will be attending in-person in the courtroom, COVID-19 protective measures such as social distancing, use of mask and sanitizers, etc. are enforced. (2) those who will be attending via video conference shall file a Request with a Proposed Order. a. If granted, the party(ies)/attorney(s) shall contact the Deputy Clerk Adele Tereyama at (670) 235-4261 or via email at adele.tereyama@nmijudiciary.com to test the video conference system. b. NOTE: It takes time to coordinate and set up the video conference system. Failure to make the Request at least 24-Hours in advance may result in denial of the request to appear by video conference.
Dated this 29th day of June, 2020.
/s/ Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO Associate Judge

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The Facebook protest is one boycott I am all in on

By **DAVID ZURAWIK**
The Baltimore Sun

David Zurawik is The Baltimore Sun's media critic. Email: david.zurawik@baltsun.com; Twitter: @davidzurawik.



July 1 is not a date Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is likely to forget anytime soon.

Some of the most iconic and biggest spending brands in American life—including Coca-Cola, The Hershey Company and Ford Motor Company, have joined a call for the suspension of advertising on Facebook this month. From Adidas to Verizon, many of the brands you see every night advertising on TV have signed on, according to a list at the boycott's website.

The action was called last month by a civil rights coalition that includes the Anti-Defamation League, the NAACP and Color of Change.

"We asked companies to act against hate and disinformation being spread by Facebook in our campaign, Stop Hate for Profit," the group says on its website, stophateforprofit.org. "We asked businesses to temporarily pause advertising on Facebook and Instagram in order to force Mark Zuckerberg to address the effect that Facebook has had on our society." (Facebook owns Instagram.)

Hate, disinformation and the effect Facebook has had on our society. Amen. This is a righteous and much needed campaign. I hope it succeeds where other attempts in recent years to criticize, shame, expose or beg Mr. Zuckerberg to be more socially responsible have failed.

For most of my professional life, I have been against boycotts of media companies.

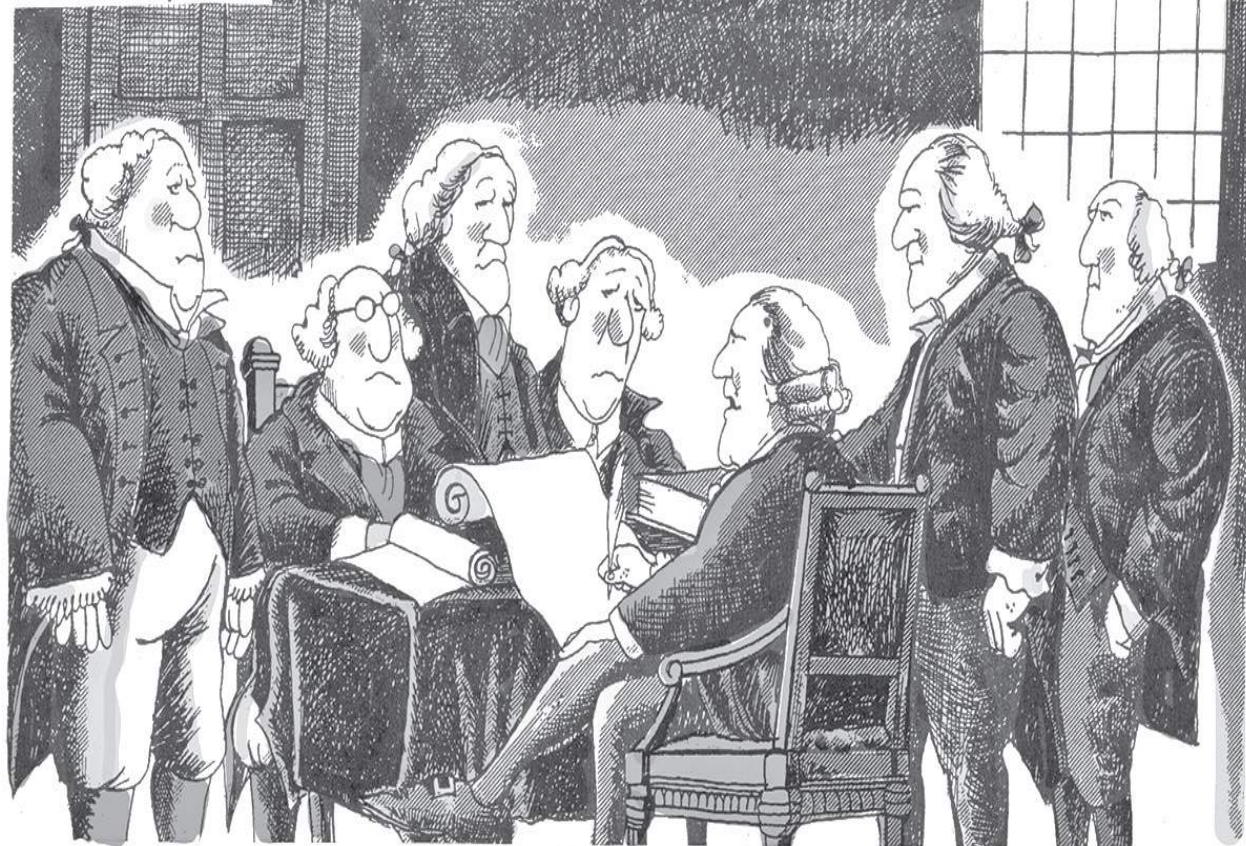
But then came Mr. Zuckerberg and Facebook. I started regularly blasting away at the social media giant following the presidential election of 2016 when I saw how Mr. Trump's campaign used Facebook for lies and potentially libelous content they could never get on TV.

Reporting by "Frontline" on PBS chronicled how Facebook had allowed highly personal data it held from members to be sold to the political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica for use in targeting voters on behalf of Mr. Trump. Congressional hearings in 2017 revealed how Facebook had carried ads paid for in rubles that sought to exploit racial tension in Baltimore with disinformation following the death of Freddie Gray in 2015. Rubles! And Team Zuckerberg saw nothing suspicious about that.

After that, I was all for almost anything that could rein in the titans of Silicon Valley like Mr. Zuckerberg, who revolutionized media technologically before we had a chance to figure

See **FACEBOOK** on Next Page

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"Let's delete this line that says 'those who destroy our statues and monuments and those who riot and loot... will be deported to Antarctica'!"

What if the feds sent you \$1,200 every month?

On a bitter cold spring night 14 months ago, back in a more magical time when all things seemed possible in the 2020 president race, I stood on the steps leading down to Washington's great Reflecting Pool waiting to hear from the most unlikely and arguably intriguing Democrat of all, the businessman and political neophyte Andrew Yang.

Before Yang spoke, a stream of supporters went up to a microphone and, with the Lincoln Memorial looming behind them, said they had a dream that a Yang presidency would also mean his cornerstone policy idea—a check for \$1,000 from the federal government, delivered to every U.S. adult every month.

The mostly young supporters said Yang's proposal for "universal basic income," or UBI, would free them from the ups-and-downs of "the gig economy" that had entrapped so many Americans in their 20s, or allow them to chase a creative passion. One woman was an artist and a freelancer who said her family had disowned her for coming out as gay and "Andrew Yang is the only presidential candidate right now who would offer protection in scenarios like mine."

Still, not everyone who heard Yang that night in April 2019 was sold. One Baltimore woman who showed up out of curiosity wondered what the drug dealers on her block would do with their \$1,000 check. I also had doubts—about his vague plan to pay for it with a value-added tax that he said would fall heavily on tech companies, and on the overall cost that even Yang himself said could be \$2.8 trillion a year.

Flash forward to 2020, and while Yang is no longer a candidate, America just had a trial run of UBI, under less-than-ideal circumstances. Pressed by the coronavirus lockdown and a surge in jobless claims that has surpassed 40 million, Congress and President Donald Trump raced out with a stimulus plan that sent a one-time \$1,200 payment to all but the wealthiest adults.

In a big, messy country (and with some folks still waiting for the check), many families are struggling. But the check clearly helped prevent a crisis from becoming a calamity in a number of households. The money allowed millions with no income to pay the rent, buy groceries or other goods (even more so for those who received a temporary \$600 weekly boost in unemployment checks).

Many of America's iconic consumer brands—Walmart, Best Buy, Apple, Wendy's and more—reported a healthy uptick in sales in late April, when the checks arrived (and some are surely

By **WILL BUNCH**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Will Bunch is the national opinion columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer.



terrified of August, when the supersized unemployment checks end). For one month, the idea that Yang floated largely as a hedge against the automation of American jobs seemed to instead protect the workforce from a pandemic. Not surprisingly, some economists and pols wonder if—given the vagaries of U.S. capitalism in the 21st century—UBI should be permanent.

An open letter from more than 500 academics pleaded for UBI as the COVID-19 layoffs spread—writing that "(s)ocieties where a large majority of the population works in the informal sector will be hit especially hard—beyond earnings, there is next to no safety net"—and Spain's left-leaning government has embraced the idea. What does Yang think now? I asked him.

"Millions of Americans received the \$1200 stimulus and loved it," Yang told me via a Twitter Direct Message. "It didn't transform their personalities or make them lazy. It did give them the ability to buy groceries and keep a roof over their heads, and reduced their stress levels and gave them a sense of security."

"That's what we need as we are down tens of millions of jobs and will be for quite some time. Seventy percent of Americans support emergency cash relief for the duration of the crisis. We should do this all of the time."

Yang's point is a good one, and the recent events have me thinking about how the burdens of capitalism—not just McJobs but things like student debt—have kept folks too beaten down to fight for change, and how that's been reversed in the George Floyd protests.

But I'm not completely sold and here's why. The coronavirus and the protests have exposed that America has more needs than dollars, even borrowing at record low interest rates. Universal health care and college and wiping away student debt ... I'd try those things ahead of UBI and the flat-screen TVs that come with it. But let's revisit the Yang plan in a year or so.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

To Delegate Sablan

As the executive officer of the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs, I felt obligated to respond to a social media post on the Veterans Cemetery that appeared on the Facebook page of Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan on June 26, 2020, that was highly misinformed.

Respectfully to the delegate, the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs is already underway with the project to fence the entirety of the Veterans Cemetery. The permit process has been completed, fence location markings are being completed now and the installation of the fence is scheduled to begin next month. The fencing is part of the second phase of improvements to the Veterans Cemetery that this office was able to get the resources for. You would have known this had you communicated with our Veterans Affairs office.

More recently, as you might have seen in the media, the Office of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Public Lands organized a meeting with the cattle grazers in the Marpi area to discuss this issue. This included discussion about their responsibility to ensure their fencing is maintained. That meeting included all of the stakeholders, the Office of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Public Lands, the Division of Parks and Recreation, the Marianas Visitor's Authority, veterans, and the Marpi area cattle grazers. It also included an invitation to all of the media. As your Facebook post comes after this meeting, you were most likely aware that the issue with

free-roaming cattle in Marpi and specifically their trespass at the Veterans Cemetery was already being addressed. You would certainly have known this had you extended us the courtesy of a phone call or email.

As most are aware, there has been farming and cattle grazing in the Marpi area for decades. The construction of the relatively new Veterans Cemetery did not include funding for a security wall or fence. This is why this administration worked to get the additional funding necessary to see the fencing and other improvements.

That said, my office—that is, my staff and I—and the Department of Public Works, who keep the grass maintained, have worked in the interim to keep the Veterans Cemetery as clean as possible. My staff and I visit the cemetery two to three times a day to remove the cattle manure. Because of a nearby construction and humidity, we also regularly dust off the markers and remove mildew. We do this every day and on austerity Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays as well. We cannot police the cattle all day long every day. You would have known this had you the courtesy of reaching out to our Office of Veterans Affairs.

Had your office contacted our office, you would have been apprised of the active effort to resolve this issue. You have not contacted the Office of Veterans Affairs one single time during my term as executive officer to discuss any matters pertaining to CNMI veterans. We have reached out to you

that the village may have been occupied prior to and during the time of the Spanish-Chamorro wars, circa AD 1684. Poignant discoveries included a high number of child burials. A probable cause for the high rate of child mortality may have been contagious diseases. In the historic records, these are referred to as ship's sickness (alluding to disease spread by the Spanish galleons). These lines of evidence suggest that the time frame extends earlier for site occupation. To determine the exact dates, it will be necessary to obtain specific dates through radiocarbon dating. Site SP-1-0762 continues to provide a unique and significant glimpse into the past life ways of the Chamorro people.

Unfortunately, Mr. Nakamoto was unable to secure investors for his project and he was forced to abandon the island and his responsibilities for the archaeological investigation. SHARC was able to secure the funding that covered the field work only. Funding for the laboratory analyses of the artifacts, specialist's costs (i.e., osteological, radiocarbon, wood identification, faunal, etc.) as well as all reports was not provided to our firm. In the 21 years that have elapsed since Mr. Nakamoto abandoned the project, we have met with your office (before your tenure) numerous times when potential investors or local projects were proposed for this project area. In all of these meetings your office stated that the first condition for any developer would be to have the previous archaeological materials (i.e., human remains, artifacts, and botanical and other samples) analyzed. In addition, the drafting of maps and all reporting would be the responsibility of the new developer. Although costly, the benefit to the developer would be access to cleared areas without any cultural findings. With this assurance by your office, SHARC stored all

the manager of that store and the company that owns it responsible for policing that board and not allowing such speech to be put there—let alone remain?

Nick Clegg, vice president for global affairs and communication, defended the company on CNN's "Reliable Sources" Sunday saying: "I sometimes hear folks imply somehow that Facebook or social media in general is awash in hate. And, yes, there are hateful people in the world. ... But, thankfully, the vast, vast, vast majority of content on Facebook is positive, is useful, is joyful, is sometimes playful. It's the local business reaching local clients. It's the dad running the Facebook group for his daughter's football team."

To some extent, he's right. But that is absolutely no excuse for not diligently policing the disinformation from Russian operatives, the videos from hate groups or the lies and smears from

By **STANLEY T. IAKOPO**

Soecial to the Saipan Tribune



Stanley T. Iakopo is executive officer of the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs.

on several occasions to discuss our plans. The suggestion by you, that the staff of this office or the administration honors our veterans only on Memorial Day, is untoward and unbecoming of your office. I am a veteran, serving 19 years as an Air Force airman (MSgt), who has supported two theaters and continue to serve the next six years as a reservist. Those who lie there, who are buried at that cemetery, are my brothers-in-arms. The staff of the Office of Veterans Affairs have worked tirelessly in the service of my fellow veterans and the memory of my fallen brothers.

I humbly ask you, as a fellow veteran, to reach out to me any time to discuss matters relating to our veterans or our services, plans, and efforts, so that we can better work together to overcome the challenges and for the benefit of our fellow veterans.

of the artifacts, samples, and a portion of the human remains in our lab, which we had rented at our expense until last year. After that time, the burials and artifacts have been stored at your office near the airport. To date, with this new project now completed by Best Sunshine, we have neither been consulted by your office concerning this outstanding condition to treat the previous archaeological work for the history of our island nor any mention of the debt owed to our company.

In this regard, we have no problem with the reburial of the Best Sunshine burials. We assume that the required excavations and reporting are completed for these remains. Concerning the Nakamoto burials, **we do not agree to the reburial of these remains until all analysis and reporting has been conducted.** Furthermore, we request that the "Community Chest" fund placed by Best Sunshine be used to enable us to complete the necessary analyses and reporting for the Nakamoto human remains and features. This is the only right that Best Sunshine, who benefited greatly from our work at the hotel site, pay for the necessary work to bring the story of this important prehistoric village in the heart of Saipan.

Given these factors, we are unable to participate in the reburial of the Nakamoto remains. We do appreciate you requesting our services and look to the good guidance of your office to help us secure the necessary funding to complete our most important study. Thank you!

Michael A. Fleming
Marilyn K. Swift
Randy A. Harper

Swift and Harper Archaeological Resource Consulting

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reburial of human remains from IPI property

To Rita Chong-Dela Cruz of the Historic Preservation Office, Department of Community & Cultural Affairs: Thank you for offering Swift and Harper Archaeological Resource Consulting the opportunity to oversee the reburial of the Best Sunshine prehistoric burials.

In considering your kind offer, we find ourselves in an interesting and conflicted situation. As you recall, we excavated within what was to become the Best Sunshine property for Mr. Nakamoto in the late 1990s. This property was intensively investigated by our firm between the years 1996 and 1999 (Swift et al. 1996 a and b, 1997, 1998 a and b, and 1999). During our investigations, approximately 95% of the proposed (at that time) hotel was cleared of archaeological materials. A total of 260 human remains and 53 archaeological features were treated according to HPO stipulations. The large number of burials and former intact deposits at this site contribute to make this one of the most significant archaeological sites in the CNMI. The condition of the burials and the recovery of a larger than usual amount of slingstones suggests

FACEBOOK

From Page 8

out ethically and legally how the digital content machines could be used for the enlightenment rather than exploitation of its users.

Mr. Zuckerberg has repeatedly defended his irresponsible management of Facebook with intellectually dishonest arguments.

Take his long-held position that he merely managed a platform where information was placed by others, so he wasn't an actual publisher with the responsibility that someone who publishes a newspaper would have. How convenient—and disingenuous. Ask yourself how you would feel if you went into your local grocery store and saw a racial epithet on the bulletin board where help wanted and babysitting ads are placed. Wouldn't you hold

politicians like Mr. Trump—as small a portion of overall content as that might be.

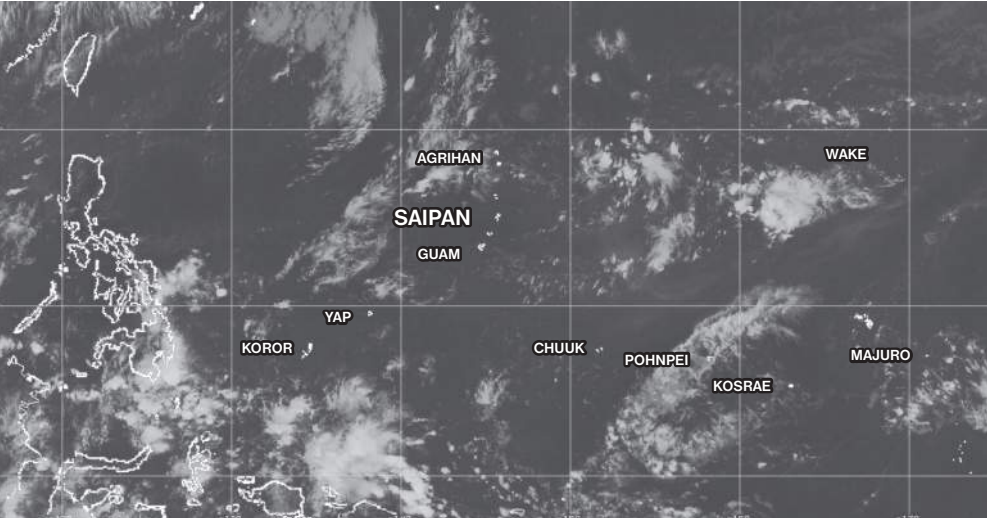
In fact, that steady stream of familiar, friendly, local content from friends and family is what makes the political lies, propaganda, divisive content and hate speech all the more dangerous. Because it comes wrapped in that trustworthy, safe flow of more personal information from friends, you receive the hateful and dishonest content with your guard down, so to speak, and are more receptive to it.

Mr. Zuckerberg's history shows him to be someone only concerned about profits.

So, go for it, #StopHateforProfit. Hit him and his social media monster where it hurts—in his profit margin. Hit as hard as you can and then some.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 5:48 AM, MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show just a few showers moving through the Marianas while scattered showers develop to the southwest and northwest of the area. Overnight surface analysis shows short-wave surface troughs to the north and south helping to generate these clusters of thunderstorms.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

 - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:27 AM	8:44 PM
Wednesday	-	8:23 AM	9:30 PM
Thursday	-	9:15 AM	10:10 PM
Friday	-	10:05 AM	10:48 PM
Saturday	-	10:53 AM	11:24 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Cloudy	59° / 54°	
Beijing	Thunderstorm	81° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Showers	86° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 62°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
New York	Thunderstorm	83° / 66°	
Osaka	Rain	81° / 75°	
Paris	Sunny	84° / 64°	
Busan	Windy	73° / 68°	
Rome	Sunny	88° / 70°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	90° / 72°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 54°	
Seoul	Sunny	79° / 61°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorm	81° / 75°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	88° / 68°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:27 AM	LOW TIDE	1.42	
7:58 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.03	
3:29 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.18	
10:40 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.03	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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Business

Fishguyz Scuba & Charter thrilled to be back

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Staff of Fishguyz Scuba & Charter can't wait to get back in the water after the CNMI's first positive COVID-19 case pretty much shuttered tourism-related businesses last March.

Manager Lisa Phair said COVID-19 kept the dive shop closed for three months and they're thrilled the government finally allowed them to resume operations soon after the islands' Vulnerability Level was downgraded to "Blue."

"[Closure] is a huge hit to any business, especially a small business that is otherwise unable to bring in an income. ... We are so thrilled that the COVID-19 Task Force listened to the community's request to open scuba diving," she said.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Fishguyz Scuba & Charter was doing fairly well as far as customers were concerned, Phair said, although far from what the dive shop experienced during its banner years.

"We did see a decline in tours last year, which I would say correlated to the decline

in tourism as a whole, but we have always had a tremendous local customer base, as well as a busy charter schedule, with contracts from television networks, private corporations, universities, the military, and more," she said.

Phair said Fishguyz Scuba & Charter will first concentrate on the local market before priming up to accept tourists again when the Commonwealth finally welcomes them back on July 15.

"Current plans are to get out with our local customers and enjoy this unique opportunity of diving Saipan and Tinian's beautiful waters without the cluster of tourists we typically have. We feel almost a little greedy to have the waters just to ourselves as residents and have already taken advantage of some north dive sites that are only accessible during summer months," she said.

While the dive shop looks forward to tourists returning next week, Phair said she can't help but remain cautious and will take special measures to ensure they operate with the highest degree of safety, both in the water and out of the water.

"We welcome tourism as a much-needed boost to our



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Sydney Takahashi has been diving in the CNMI for nearly 30 years for various shops before establishing Fishguyz Scuba & Charter as Minimax Scuba back in 2015.

economy, and we love showing off our beautiful island. It's easy to take for granted what we have, but when people come here and are blown away by the beauty of it and the experience of scuba diving, that makes us happy and incredibly grateful," she said.

Fishguyz Scuba & Charter and its sister shop, CMLC Artha, have an undisputedly solid safety record. Both dive shops take great care in ensuring that safety is always their top priority.

"We won't go out if the water is not suitable. We limit certain dive sites to divers with higher skill levels and we never take divers to advanced sites without having been diving with them before. We also spend a lot of time helping our divers with buoyancy control so they aren't over-weighted on the weight belts like we often see; this lets them dive longer and with much greater ease," said Phair.

The biggest thing that sets Fishguyz Scuba & Charter apart from other dive shops on island is and has always been



Sydney Takahashi, a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer (MSDT) and a U.S. Coast Guard captain, is seen here in one of his dives.



Fishguyz Scuba & Charter and its sister shop, CMLC Artha, have an undisputedly solid safety record. Both dive shops take great care in ensuring that safety is always their top priority.

shop owner Sydney Takahashi. He established Fishguyz Scuba & Charter as Minimax Scuba back in 2015 and has been diving in the CNMI for nearly 30 years for various shops before opening his own dive shop.

"He's the 'bread-and-butter,' so to speak. Syd is

a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer and a U.S. Coast Guard captain, which in itself is fairly unique. However, his incredibly natural skill for the sport, his precision and understanding as an instructor, his fish identification skills, and local hospitality far outweighs what most

customers are accustomed to," said Phair, who herself is a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor.

Fishguyz Scuba & Charter is currently operating out of a residence in Dandan. For more information or to book a tour, call Takahashi at 989-7703 or Phair at 989-5888.

Mercedes to recall 660,000 vehicles in China for oil leak

BEIJING (AP)—Mercedes-Benz will recall more than 660,000 vehicles in China later this year for a possible oil leak.

A seal between a high-pressure fuel pump and a low-pressure fuel pipe could weaken over time, allowing oil to leak when the engine starts in cold weather, according to a notice published last week on the website of China's State Administration for Market Regulation.

China's official Xinhua News Agency reported the recall Sunday.

The recall of 668,954 vehicles will begin on Dec. 18. It includes several models made between February 2013 and

June 2017, including C-class, E-class, V-class, GLK-class, CLS-class, SLC-class, GLC SUV and VS20 VITO vehicles.

Most of the vehicles were made in China by Beijing Benz Automotive Co. About 12,500 were built by Fujian Benz Automotive Co., and around 36,000 were imported.

Dealers will replace faulty parts free of charge.

The announcement follows another recall that began last month of 4,653 imported Mercedes G-class sedans that had incorrect child-safety lock labels, Xinhua said.

Those vehicles were manufactured between Feb. 14, 2018, and Sept. 24, 2019.

Developers cancel long-delayed, \$8B Atlantic Coast Pipeline

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—The developers of the long-delayed, \$8 billion Atlantic Coast Pipeline announced the cancellation of the multi-state natural gas project Sunday, citing uncertainties about costs, permitting and litigation.

Despite a victory last month at the United States Supreme Court over a critical permit, Dominion Energy and Duke Energy said in a news release that "recent developments have created an unacceptable layer of uncertainty and anticipated delays" for the 600-mile (965-kilometer) project designed to cross West Virginia and Virginia into North Carolina.

The companies said a recent

pair of court rulings that have thrown into question a permitting program used around the nation to approve oil and gas pipelines and other utility work through wetlands and streams presented "new and serious challenges."

"This new information and litigation risk, among other continuing execution risks, make the project too uncertain to justify investing more shareholder capital," the news release said.

The massive infrastructure project, announced with much fanfare in 2014, had drawn fierce opposition from many landowners, activists and environmental advocates, who said it would damage

pristine landscapes and harm wildlife. Getting the project built would have involved tree removal and blasting and leveling some ridgetops as the pipe, 42 inches (1 meter) in diameter for much of its path, crossed mountains, hundreds of water bodies and other sensitive terrain and burrowed underneath the Appalachian Trail.

Opponents also questioned whether there was sufficient need for the gas it would carry and said it would further encourage the use of a fossil fuel at a time when climate change makes a shift to renewable energy imperative.

Legal challenges brought by environmental groups prompt-

ed the dismissal or suspension of numerous permits and led to an extended delay in construction. The project was years behind schedule and the anticipated cost had ballooned from the original estimate of \$4.5 billion to \$5 billion.

Reaction poured in Sunday from the project's opponents, who lauded the demise of the project.

"If anyone still had questions about whether or not the era of fracked gas was over, this should answer them. Today is a historic victory for clean water, the climate, public health, and our communities," Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said in a statement.

Nation

Protester killed on Seattle freeway was dedicated to cause

SEATTLE (AP)—A person killed Saturday when a man who drove his car onto a closed Seattle freeway and into a crowd protesting police brutality was remembered Sunday as someone who was dedicated to the cause.

The other person hit in the incident, meanwhile, remained in serious condition Sunday at a Seattle hospital.

The deceased, Summer Taylor, 24, spent the last six weeks “tirelessly standing up

for others while working full time and supporting everyone around them,” wrote Urban Animal on Instagram, the veterinarian clinic where Taylor worked in Portland, Oregon.

Taylor, who the post said used they and them pronouns, was “a positive force of nature” and brought joy, the post said. “Anyone that works for Urban Animal will tell you that Summer Taylor’s laugh makes any bad day better.”

Katelyn Hoberecht, who

worked with Taylor at the veterinary clinics, told the Seattle Times that Taylor had been a frequent presence at protests.

“Summer has been there since day one standing up for Black lives. Staying out all day and night, while still working full time taking care of animals,” Hoberecht said. “Summer talked to me about the protests, and how incredible it was to be a part of something so huge. A part of history.”

Kamala Harris, a U.S. senator and former Democratic presidential candidate from California, was among those honoring Taylor on social media Sunday. Harris tweeted: “Absolutely heartbreaking. Summer Taylor was only 24-years-old, peacefully protesting for Black Lives Matter when they were struck by a car. Thinking of their family during this difficult time and everyone in the movement today.”

Diaz Love, 32, also of Port-

land, Oregon, was also hit when the car barreled through a panicked crowd of protesters on Interstate 5 early Saturday morning. Diaz remained in serious condition Sunday in the intensive care unit at Harborview Medical Center, but her health is improving, spokesperson Susan Gregg said.

The driver of the car that hit them, Dawit Kelete, is in custody awaiting a court hearing on Monday at which the judge will determine if he can be released on bail, according to court documents.

Kelete, of Seattle, drove the car around vehicles that were blocking I-5 and sped into the crowd about 1:40 a.m., according to a police report released by the Washington State Patrol. Video taken at the scene by protesters showed people shouting “Car! Car!” before fleeing the roadway.

Love was filming the protest in a nearly two-hour-long

Facebook livestream captioned “Black Femme March takes I-5” when the video ended abruptly; with about 15 seconds left, shouts of “Car!” can be heard as the camera starts to shake before screeching tires and the sound of impact are heard.

A graphic video posted on social media showed the white Jaguar racing toward a group of protesters who are standing behind several parked cars, set up for protection. The car swerves around the other vehicles and slams into the two protesters, sending them flying into the air.

Kelete, who was alone, fled the scene after hitting the protesters, Trooper Chase Van Cleave told The Associated Press. One of the other protesters got in a car and chased the driver for about a mile. He was able to stop him by pulling his car in front of the Jaguar, Van Cleave said.



AP

Emergency workers tend to an injured person on the ground after a driver sped through a protest-related closure on the Interstate 5 freeway in Seattle, authorities said early Saturday, July 4, 2020.

Debates turn emotional as schools decide how and if to open

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—School districts across America are in the midst of making wrenching decisions over how to resume classes in settings radically altered by the coronavirus pandemic, with school buses running below capacity, virtual learning, outdoor classrooms and quarantine protocols for infected children the new norm.

The plans for the upcoming school year are taking shape by the day, and vary district to district, state to state. The debates have been highly emotional, with tempers flaring among parents and administrators, and have been made all the more vexing by record numbers of COVID-19 cases being reported each day.

In Florida, some school districts want students back in the classroom in early August, even though the virus is surging through communities. On average, Florida has reported more than 7,000 new cases

each day recently—more than seven times what it was reporting a month ago.

New Mexico, which has been largely spared major outbreaks, plans a hybrid model of virtual and in-person learning. Parents in New York have demanded schools reopen in the fall. And in Maine, more outdoor learning is planned. Districts nationwide are coming up with various rules for wearing masks. Some want all students to wear them. Others, such as Marion County, Indiana, plan to limit the requirement to older children.

Each of these decisions is fraught, trying to balance health concerns with clawing back as much normalcy as possible. Parents, wrung out after months of juggling full-time work and full-time home schooling, are desperate for help. Children, isolated from their peers, are yearning for social interaction. And everyone, including teachers, is

concerned about stepping into the unknown, with so much still uncertain about the virus.

Districts are worried about being able to afford added supplies—including masks and more buses. And school officials said the resurgence of virus cases underway could shatter reopening plans before they’re even put in place.

“If we see large outbreaks happening across communities, it’s going to be very hard to keep schools open,” said Dr. Ashish Jha, director of the Harvard Global Health Institute, on “Fox News Sunday.” “The good news is we think kids transmit less. They are certainly less likely to get sick, but ... imagine Arizona right now. If schools were open right now, they would not be able to stay open.”

Aimee Rodriguez Webb, a special education teacher in Cobb County, Georgia, is wrestling with her own health concerns while waiting to hear

her district’s plans. She also has a 3 year old.

“I love being in the classroom. And this year I get my own classroom, so I was looking forward to decorating it and all that,” she said. “But then the flip side is ... I don’t know that I’m mentally ready to step into the unknown like that.”

Schools around the U.S. shut down suddenly this year as coronavirus cases first began rising. That led to a hodgepodge of distance learning, on-the-fly homeschooling and, for some families, a lack of any school at all. Districts are now turning their focus to how to create more structured environments.

But the debates have been filled with tension. Near Rochester, New York, parents rallied in favor of fully opening schools, holding signs outside an administration building June 29 saying: “No normal school? No school taxes!”

‘Killed a baby’: 8-year-old girl killed in Atlanta shooting

ATLANTA (AP)—An 8-year-old girl was shot and killed on the Fourth of July after at least two people in a crowd of armed people opened fire on a car she was riding in near a flash point of recent protests in Atlanta, authorities said Sunday.

Police identified the girl as Secorica Turner, and Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms called for justice during an emotional news conference Sunday with the girl’s grief-stricken mother.

The shooting happened near the Wendy’s restaurant where an African American man, Rayshard Brooks, was killed by an Atlanta police officer on June 12. The fast food outlet was later burned, and the area has since become a site for frequent demonstrations against police brutality.

Authorities said the mother had attempted to drive through illegally placed barricades in the area when the vehicle came under fire Saturday night.

“You shot and killed a baby,” the mayor said, according to the Atlanta Journal Constitution. “And there wasn’t just one shooter, there were at least two shooters.”

In a statement Sunday, police said the girl was in a car with her mother and a friend of the mother when they got off Interstate-75/85 onto University Avenue and were

trying to enter a parking lot nearby. They ran into a group of armed individuals who had blocked the entrance.

“At some point, someone in that group opened fire on the vehicle, striking it multiple times and striking the child who was inside,” the statement read. The driver drove the girl to Atlanta Medical Center but she did not survive.

Police said they are seeking help from the public to identify those involved and released a wanted poster saying a person all dressed in black and another in a white T-shirt were being sought.

The mayor said there have been problems with protesters in the area putting up barriers to close off the street. She said she received a message that the barriers were back up less than an hour before she was informed that the 8-year-old girl had died.

“An 8-year-old girl was killed last night because her mother was riding down the street,” Bottoms said. “If Secorica was not safe last night, none of us are safe.”

The mayor urged anyone with information about the shooting to come forward.

Police said two other people, in addition to the 8-year-old, were killed and more than 20 people were injured in incidents of gunfire and violence during the long holiday weekend.

Asia

Japan floods leave up to 34 dead

TOKYO (AP)—Deep floodwaters and the risk of more mudslides that left at least 34 people confirmed or presumed dead hampered search and rescue operations Sunday in southern Japan, including at elderly home facilities where more than a dozen died and scores were still stranded.

Helicopters and boats rescued more people from their homes in the Kumamoto region. More than 40,000 defense troops, the coast guard and fire brigades were taking part in the operation.

Large areas along the Kuma River were swallowed by floodwaters, with many houses, buildings and vehicles submerged almost up to their roofs. Mudslides smashed into houses, sending people atop rooftops waving at rescuers.

At a flooded elderly care home in Kuma Village, where 14 residents were presumed dead after rescuers reached them on Saturday, rescue continued Sunday for the dozens of remaining residents and caregivers.

Sixty-five residents and about 30 caregivers were trapped at the riverside care facility Senjuen when floodwaters and mud

gushed in. All remaining 51 residents, including three who had hypothermia, had been rescued by boats and taken to hospitals for treatment by Sunday afternoon, officials said.

Shigemitsu Sakoda, a local rafting company operator who joined defense troops in the rescue effort at the nursing home, said floodwaters were still high on the first floor when they arrived at the scene on rafts. "So we smashed windows with a hammer to get in," he told Japanese broadcaster NHK. Soldiers went up to the roof to rescue survivors who were able to go upstairs while the waters rose, he said.

"Unfortunately, some of the residents could not make it to the second floor," Sakoda said.

Overall, 18 people were confirmed dead, while 16 others, including those at the nursing home, were presumed dead. Fourteen others were still missing as of Sunday afternoon. Dozens of others were still trapped in inundated areas waiting to be rescued, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

In Hitoyoshi City, the deluge poured into houses near the

main train station. "The water rose to the second floor so fast and I just couldn't stop shivering," a 55-year-old woman who was visiting her relatives told the Asahi newspaper.

She and her relatives ran upstairs, swam out of a window and eventually took refuge on the roof to wait for their rescue.

As floods eased in parts of Kumamoto on Sunday, vending machines and cars lay scattered on mud-coated streets. Some people were cleaning their homes, taking out damaged furniture and rinsing off mud.

More than 200,000 residents in Kumamoto prefecture were urged to evacuate following pounding rains on Friday evening and into Saturday. But the evacuation was not mandatory and many people opted to stay home because of concerns over catching the coronavirus, even though officials say shelters are adequately equipped with partitions and other safety measures.

Flooding also cut off power and communication lines, further delaying the search and rescue. Nearly 6,000 homes in Kumamoto were still without electricity Sunday, according to the Kyushu Electric Power Co.

India's cases up as WHO cautions vs vaccine plan

NEW DELHI (AP)—India has reported another record 24-hour jump in coronavirus cases as the World Health Organization cautioned against the country's plans to release a vaccine by August.

The Health Ministry added 24,850 confirmed cases on Sunday, bringing the nationwide total to 673,165, making India the fourth hardest-hit in the world behind the U.S., Brazil and Russia.

India's death toll rose to 19,268.

The Indian Council of Medical Research, the agency leading the country's COVID-19 response, said last week that it had set Aug. 15 -- India's independence day -- as a target for developing a coronavirus vaccine and asking clinical trial investigators to enroll participants by July 7.

The WHO's chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan said in an interview Saturday with India's online newspaper The Wire that more realistically, some phase 1 results would be available by August "if all goes according to plan."

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ The hard-hit Australian state of Victoria has recorded 74 new coronavirus cases after announcing a record 108 new infections on Saturday.

That increase resulted in state Premier Daniel Andrews announcing a lockdown of nine inner-city public housing blocks containing 3,000 people, where 27 cases have been detected. Police are guarding every entrance of the housing estates and residents are not allowed to leave their homes for any reason. Andrews said the residents will have their rent waived for the next two weeks and will receive one-off hardship payments of between 750 and 1,500 Australian dollars (\$520 to \$1,040). The government said it would arrange the delivery of food and medical supplies to all homes. Australian Medical Association President Tony Bartone called for a temporary halt to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions across the country after the alarming surge in Victoria.

■ South Korea has recorded 60-plus COVID-19 cases for a third consecutive day as the virus spread beyond the greater Seoul area. The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Sunday it has confirmed 61 additional cases, bringing national totals to 13,091. The death toll remains the same at 283. The agency says 43 of the newly reported cases were locally infected while the other 18 were linked to international arrivals.

It says 41 of the 43 cases were either from the Seoul metropolitan area or two central cities, Gwangju and Daejeon. South Korea has been grappling with an uptick in new infections after it eased social distancing rules in early May. South Korea recorded 63 new cases on both Saturday and Friday.

■ China on Sunday reported eight new confirmed COVID-19 cases in the previous 24-hour period, as a recent outbreak in Beijing appeared to have largely run its course. The Chinese capital had two new cases, the seventh straight day of single-digit increase. Authorities have confirmed 334 infections during the outbreak, which was detected about three weeks ago and is the largest in the country since March. No one has died, though a few were earlier reported in critical condition. "The situation ... keeps improving and is completely controllable," Beijing government spokesperson Xu Hejian said at a news conference Saturday. The six cases outside Beijing were people arriving from abroad. Three were in Gansu province in the country's northwest. China has reported 83,553 confirmed cases and 4,634 deaths since the pandemic began. Its case count does not include people who test positive but show no symptoms.

World

Virus fear prompts Mexican town to block main road from US border

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Residents of the town of Sonoyta, across from Lukeville, Arizona, briefly blocked the main road leading south from the U.S. border over the weekend over fears of coronavirus outbreaks.

Arizona has seen a major upsurge in infections and there were worries about intensified contagion during the July 4 weekend.

The mayor of Sonoyta, José Ramos Arzate, issued a statement Saturday "inviting U.S. tourists not to visit Mexico."

Local residents organized to block the road with their cars on the Mexican side Saturday.

Video posted by residents showed several travelers complaining that they had a right to cross because they were Mexican citizens. The road is the quickest route to the seaside resort of Puerto Peñasco, also known as Rocky Point.

Ramos Arzate wrote that people from the United States should only be allowed in "for essential activities, and for that reason, the checkpoint and inspection point a few meters from the Sonoyta-Lukeville AZ crossing will continue operating."

"We had agreed on this in order to safeguard the health of our community in the face of an accelerated rate of COVID-19 contagion in the



Workers pull dollies loaded with boxes of produce past a decontamination tent at the Centro de Abastos, the main food distribution center in Mexico City, Tuesday, April 7, 2020. AP

neighboring state of Arizona," Ramos Arzate wrote. "It is our duty as municipal authorities to protect the health of our town."

Mexico and the United States agreed previously to limit border crossings to essential activities, but up until this week, that had mainly been enforced for people entering the United States, not the other way.

Residents of Sonoyta demanded health checks on incoming visitors, better health care facilities and broader testing.

There has been some resentment that tourists, but not local residents, had reportedly been allowed into Puerto Peñasco, where many banks and other services are located.

In view of continued high infection rates and deaths

in Mexico, some state are backpedaling on reopening businesses. For example, the Mexico City government said Sunday that more streets in the city's colonial-era downtown would be closed to traffic but open to pedestrians.

The city already allows businesses with even-numbered addresses to open one day, and odd-numbered businesses the next.

But on Sunday the city proposed a new, voluntary measure to reduce crowds downtown: officials asked people whose last names begin with the letters A to L to shop on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Those whose names begin with the letters M to Z would be encouraged to shop Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. There was no proposal to enforce the rule.

Iran confirms damaged nuclear site was centrifuge facility

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran on Sunday confirmed that a damaged building at the underground Natanz nuclear site was a new centrifuge assembly center, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Iranian officials had previously sought to downplay the fire, which erupted early on Thursday, calling it only an "incident" that affected an "industrial shed." However, a released photo and video of the site broadcast by Iranian state television showed a two-story brick building with scorch marks and its roof apparently destroyed.

A spokesman for Iran's nuclear agency, Behrouz Kamalvandi, said Sunday that work had begun on the center in 2013 and it was inaugurated in 2018.

"More advanced centrifuge machines were intended to be built there," he said, adding that the damage would "possibly cause

a delay in development and production of advanced centrifuge machines in the medium term."

He said that the fire had damaged "precision and measuring instruments," and that the center had not been operating at full capacity due to restrictions imposed by Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Iran began experimenting with advanced centrifuge models in the wake of the U.S. unilaterally withdrawing from the deal two years ago.

Iran has long maintained its atomic program is for peaceful purposes.

An online video and messages purportedly claiming responsibility for the fire were released Friday. The multiple, different claims by a self-described group called the "Cheetahs of the Homeland," as well as the fact that Iran experts have never heard of the group before, raised

questions about whether Natanz again had faced sabotage by a foreign nation, as it had during the Stuxnet computer virus outbreak believed to have been engineered by the U.S. and Israel.

The Natanz fire also came less than a week after an explosion in an area east of Tehran that analysts believe hides an underground tunnel system and missile production sites.

Two U.S.-based analysts who spoke to The Associated Press on Friday, relying on released pictures and satellite images, identified the affected building as Natanz's new Iran Centrifuge Assembly Center. A satellite image on Friday by Planet Labs Inc., annotated by experts at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at Middlebury Institute of International Studies, shows what appears to be damage done to half of the building.

Overdrive

(JESSICA LYNN WALKER/LEXUS/TNS)

The all-wheel drive Lexus UX 250h pairs a high-efficiency 2.0-liter gas engine with a new fourth-generation hybrid drive system engineered specifically for this platform.



The 2020 UX 250h: Lexus offers cuddles in a tiny package

By SCOTT STURGIS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

2020 Lexus UX 250h AWD: Is the new small crossover hybrid worth a second look?

Price: \$41,975 as tested. Parking assist, \$565; power rear door with kick sensor, \$600; heated steering wheel, \$150. More options noted below.

Conventional wisdom: Car and Driver likes that it's "enjoyable to drive" and has a "convincingly upscale interior, generous standard features," but not the "unrefined engine noises, annoying infotainment touchpad, small cargo area."

Marketer's pitch: "Category-leading. Category-defying."

Reality: It's better if you don't look at it, at least the outside. But the UX is nice in all other regards.

What's new: The whole thing. The UX line is Lexus' foray into the smallest cross-

over category, starting with the 2019 model year.

From the outside, sadly, it looks as if it's right out of the Toyota stable, with nondescript angles and the appearance of something I might have hammered together in my dad's shop when I was 4.

But, take a moment to step inside. Lexus has made a fortune by allowing people to step into luxury—no matter how much the outside looks like a Camry or a Norelco Microscreen—and the UX does not fail on this count.

Underneath, the UX250 offers front-wheel drive with only a hybrid powertrain, while the front-drive UX200 is just a four-cylinder engine.

Driver's Seat: The UX comes with probably the most comfortable driver's seat I have parked in ever. It's a small crossover, so large people might be a little squeezed, but the seat is cushioned with magic and cuddles, as most Lexuses are.

Play some tunes: The UX with the 8-speaker Lexus Premium sound system is definitely for audiophiles. I heard pieces of songs that I haven't heard since ... the last time I drove a Lexus. It came as part of a \$2,200 package that provided a 10.3-inch navigation screen and tilt/telescoping wheel (which didn't slide out as far or as high as I would have liked).

It's still attached to the Lexus touchpad, and I must be getting better at it. I never pounded angrily on this one.

Volume and tuning are controlled by roller dials in the armrest, an unusual setup. It works, not wonderfully, but it's easier than the touchpad.

Changing lanes: Look really hard and adjust the sideview mirrors carefully. I almost sideswiped a car on my right even though I'd checked the mirror and turned my head. The blind-spot monitor (\$500) activated only after honking commenced.

The rear windows grow short quickly, and a large pillar obscures a whole lot of road.

Up to speed: The hybrid powertrain system creates 181 horses, and the vehicle gets to 60 mph in a lethargic 8.6 seconds, according to Toyota. The UX250 is all-wheel drive only; the 2.0-liter four powers the front wheels and a 24-kw motor powers the rear and adds stability control.

On the road: The UX handles nicely on curves and highways both. The Sport mode makes the curves extra fun but can be a hair touchy for highway driving. Normal mode actually handles acceptably on winding roads as well.

Shiftless: The special hybrid setup in the test vehicle was not optimized for acceleration, but it worked fairly well nonetheless. The powertrain emits a big whine under hard acceleration, but the feel is crisp and clean.

The front-wheel-drive ver-

sion features a 10-speed automatic.

Friends and stuff: All the comfort I gushed about above is for front-seat passengers only. People in the rear have zero legroom, even behind a 5-10 driver like myself.

The UX is surprisingly small. Foot room behind the driver's seat is also almost nonexistent. Headroom is fine, though. Note: No Sturgis kids were harmed in the making of this review.

Cargo space is 21.7 cubic feet, according to Lexus, and I can only assume that's behind the second row.

Keeping warm—and cool: Heated and cooled seats (part of the \$1,175 Premium Package, which also adds moonroof and rain-sensing wipers) keep things feeling just right.

HVAC system operation involves dials for temperature control and buttons for everything else.

Night shift: Triple Beam LED headlights (\$1,600)

make seeing the road clear and sit just right. Interior lights are subtle and won't get in the way.

Maintaining speed: The cruise control has moved off the Toyota-Lexus stalk to the steering wheel. I'd almost gotten over this, but the stereo control buttons are too small and fussy to be useful. I can think of a way to make them bigger, guys.

Fuel economy: I averaged just under 42 mpg in my usual rush from place to place. Feed the UX whatever.

Where it's built: Miyawaka, Japan.

How it's built: Consumer Reports gives the UX a 5 out of 5 for reliability.

In the end: It's no Mini Clubman on the fun scale, but the UX most reminded me of a luxurious Toyota C-HR Hybrid (no, seriously) that I tested in France and is unavailable in the States. And that vehicle was a delight to live with as well.

Q: A friend of mine just bought a 2002 Corvette. Nice car but he neglected to check out the lug nuts. The wheels have a locking lug nut on each one. There is no master unlock and previous owner is not answering his calls. Any idea on how to go about getting them off without wrecking things?

A: There are ways to remove the locking nuts. Many professional technicians know how to do it. Of course, they will be damaged beyond repair so your friend will have to buy a new set of locking nuts that will include the proper key. The other option is to take his chances with standard lug nuts.

Q: Regarding jake brakes, they are designed for the retardation of vehicle speed when on a down grade. There is no reason, other than to save regular brake linings, for their use if there is no danger of the vehicle over-revving and the driver losing control of the vehicle.

Motormouth: Locking lug nuts



(DREAMSTIME/TNS)

There are ways to remove locking nuts without the key, but they will be damaged beyond repair

They are remarkable safety accessories when used as designed. The use of engine retarders on the flat is the sign of a lazy, cheap, non-maintenance focused driver. Pick one or all of the above. It's like the driver who uses the trailer brakes

to stop the vehicle. In many cases, the trailer belongs to someone else. Unfortunately, not many traffic enforcement vehicles come with audio monitors, and the duration of use is short.

A: In town or a residential area, they are also a source of

noise pollution.

Q: For reference, a muffler was developed to quiet jake brakes. It was offered with a guarantee to pay any tickets resulting from using jake brakes in no engine braking zones. The truckers were generally not interested. They enjoy the engine brake noise much like the Harley riders like their unique sound.

A: I hear you.

Q: I drive a 2017 Acura MDX and the owner's manual specifies that 91 octane fuel is "recommended." The sales staff tells me that mid-grade (89 octane) or even regular grade (87 octane) is acceptable. I've used mid-grade for two years and the engine and performance is good. How does the engine determine the octane level and how does it internally adjust to fuel that is lower than the recommended grade?

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



A: With spirited driving, engine knock can occur, so the preferred fuel is one with a higher octane. Under less spirited driving, engine knock is less likely, so mid-grade or regular gas is fine. Continued engine knocking will cause damage, so a knock sensor screwed onto the engine reports the first signs of knock to the engine control module that then backs off the ignition timing until the knocking stops.

Q: We have a 2010 Toyota Highlander with 58,000

miles. On my last couple visits to the dealer for routine maintenance, they have recommended an engine de-slug. We have kept up with oil changes and other maintenance at the recommended intervals. Is this something modern vehicles need or are they just trying to get me for another \$170?

A: They are de-sludging your wallet. Select this service if your bulging billfold is bothering you.

Life & Style

Cosby citing systemic racism as he fights assault conviction

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—In a nearly empty Philadelphia courtroom in June 2015, a lawyer for Bill Cosby implored a federal judge to keep the comedian's testimony in an old sexual battery lawsuit

under wraps. It was sensitive. Embarrassing. Private.

U.S. District Judge Eduardo Robreno had another word for it.

The conduct Cosby detailed in his deposition was "perhaps criminal," Robreno

wrote five years ago Monday, in a momentous decision that released the case files to The Associated Press, reopened the police investigation, and helped give rise to the #MeToo movement.

Cosby, the Hollywood paragon of Black family values, was convicted of sexual assault in 2018 as the movement exploded and women across the globe shared personal histories of sexual harassment and abuse. He is serving up to 10 years in prison.

And now in the midst of another historic reckoning—this time addressing the treatment of African Americans and other people of color by police and the criminal justice system—the 82-year-old Cosby has won the right to an appeal.

He hopes to use the moment to his advantage.

"The false conviction of Bill Cosby is so much bigger than him—it's about the



In this April 24, 2018, file photo, Bill Cosby, left, arrives with his wife, Camille Cosby, for his sexual assault trial at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa.

destruction of ALL Black people and people of color in America," Cosby spokesman Andrew Wyatt said when the court accepted the appeal late last month.

Cosby, who grew up in public housing in Philadelphia, has a complicated relationship with the Black community. He earned acclaim for his ground-

breaking (and intentionally race-blind) performances on television in the 1950s; mingled, but rarely marched, with civil rights leaders and the Black elite in the 1960s; and solidified his wealth and power with his star turn as "America's Dad," on "The Cosby Show" in the 1980s.

All the while, he promoted

education and gave millions to historically Black universities.

But his increasingly jarring comments on poverty, parenthood and personal responsibility offended younger Blacks in his later years, most famously in his 2004 "Pound Cake" speech—which he gave just months after the sexual encounter that would prove his downfall.

As he toured the country, Cosby argued that "the antidote to racism is not rallies, protests, or pleas, but strong families and communities," as the essayist Ta-Nehisi Coates noted.

"Cosby's gospel of discipline, moral reform, and self-reliance offers a way out—a promise that one need not cure America of its original sin in order to succeed," Coates wrote in his 2008 piece in *The Atlantic*, "This Is How We Lost to the White Man": The audacity of Bill Cosby's Black conservatism."

Lebanon holds Baalbek concert despite virus, economic crisis

BAALBEK, Lebanon (AP)—Lebanon on Sunday hosted its annual music festival in the ancient northeastern city of Baalbek without an audience for the first time, a move organizers dubbed "an act of cultural resilience" to the coronavirus pandemic as well as the country's unprecedented economic meltdown.

Held amid soaring Roman columns, the Baalbek International Festival was founded in 1956. This year, it's being broadcast on local and regional TV stations and livestreamed on social media in an effort to spread "unity and hope."

"We could not have an audience, since it is impossible to bring 2,000-3,000 people to Baalbek amid the coronavirus precautions, so we decided to bring Baalbek into people's homes," Nayla de Freige, the festival's president, told the local LBC TV station.

The concert with 150 musicians and choral singers opened with the national anthem followed by "O Fortuna" from the cantata "Carmina Burana" by Carl Orff. It included a mix of classical music, including Beethoven

and Verdi, as well as tunes from Lebanese composers, the Rahbani brothers, and beloved Lebanese singer Fairouz.

Lebanese watching the 55-minute show at home posted nostalgic sentiments on social media about bygone days that have been replaced by an economic crisis and growing poverty and hunger.

"It is as if we are saying farewell to the Lebanon we knew and dreamed of," said economist and political activist Jad Chaaban on Twitter.

Lebanon is being shaken by a severe economic and financial crisis, made worse in recent months by the coronavirus and lockdown restrictions. The financial crisis is rooted in decades of systematic corruption and mismanagement by Lebanon's ruling elite, who critics say refuse to reform despite an uprising that erupted last October and a rapidly deteriorating economy.

The festival's website said this year's program, entitled "Sound of Resilience," was "one of the first big cultural events and a premiere in the Middle East after the confinement due to COVID-19."

Museum: 'Dukes of Hazzard' car with Confederate flag to stay

VOLO, Ill. (AP)—A northern Illinois auto museum has no plan to stop displaying a Dodge Charger from the "Dukes of Hazzard" television show with the Confederate battle flag painted atop the vehicle.

Statues of Confederate generals and soldiers are being taken down across the country, NASCAR has banned the flag from its races and the Confederate emblem is being removed from the Mississippi state flag.

But the Volo Auto Museum about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of Chicago says the famed "General Lee" from the first season of the TV show isn't going anywhere, according to a weekend report in the Crystal Lake-based Northwest Herald.

"We feel the car is part of history, and people love it," museum director Brian Grams told the newspaper. "We've got people of all races and nationalities that remember the TV show and aren't offended

by it whatsoever. It's a piece of history and it's in a museum."

Since the museum acquired in 2005 what it says is the last surviving 1969 Charger from the first season of the television program, Grams said nobody has complained. And the museum has continued to hear from people supporting the decision to keep the car as the push to rid the landscape of what is increasingly viewed as a symbol of racism, Grams said.

"Several people have reached out with positive comments about us leaving it on display," Grams said, "complimenting us for leaving it there and not having a knee-jerk reaction to remove it like a lot of places are."

Grams says the General Lee is a piece of history and the museum would not remove it any more than it would think of removing the Nazi memorabilia displayed in parts of the museum's military section.

Family breadwinner gives good health short shrift

DEAR ABBY: I have a wonderful husband of almost 20 years and two teenage children. My husband is incredibly hardworking in his stressful career and has provided a very comfortable life for us. The trouble is, he puts work ahead of any self-care. He works most waking hours, doesn't eat well, exercises rarely, is overweight—the list goes on. When I ask/encourage/nag him to make positive lifestyle choices, he reminds me of the life insurance he has and turns it around on me and says I am stressing him.

Abby, I love my husband, and I worry that this will cut his life and our life together short. Can you help?

BESIDE MYSELF WITH WORRY

DEAR BESIDE YOURSELF: I wish I could wave a magic wand and make your husband receptive to what you are trying to do for him. But until he's ready to address these issues and do something about them, nothing will change.

If he enjoys his career and takes pride in the fact that you and your children are—and will be—provided for, then he's living the life he has chosen for himself. This does not mean you must give up entirely suggesting healthy lifestyle choices, but perhaps do it a little less often and in terms of activities he might enjoy.

DEAR ABBY: After a long and successful life, my uncle

recently passed away. His wife is my mother's sister. During one of our phone calls, she told me she and my cousins had written his obituary and that it would be published soon. To my shock and dismay, I located the obituary and discovered that my sister and I were not mentioned as his niece and nephew. I am still terribly hurt. Why would they do this?

My sister and I grew up spending every major holiday and birthday with my uncle. The obituary did include his other niece and nephew who live on the opposite side of the country and kept in touch only with an occasional phone call and holiday card. I included my cousins in my parents' and sister's obituaries, all of whom have passed in the last few years.

I feel that I must address this with them, but I don't want to add to the pain they are going through while they mourn their loss. I now dread attending the memorial because I'm worried friends of our family may bring it up, and I won't know what to say.

HURT NEPHEW IN ILLINOIS

DEAR NEPHEW: Even when a death is expected, many people go into a state of shock, which interferes with their ability to sequence facts. It is entirely possible that the obituary was written when your aunt and cousins weren't thinking straight, which is why you were omitted. If someone brings it up at the memorial—which I doubt will happen—rather than nurse hurt feelings, I hope you will point out that the family, including you, is grieving. Period.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: How do you politely ask a neighbor to mow his lawn at reasonable times of the day? Mine seems to be doing it three days a week and always when we want to enjoy our backyard.

TRYING TO RELAX

DEAR TRYING: If you are on speaking terms with this neighbor, explain that the noise from his lawnmower interferes with your ability to enjoy your backyard and ask POLITELY if he could schedule it at another hour of the day. If he is a good neighbor, he should be willing to accommodate you.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



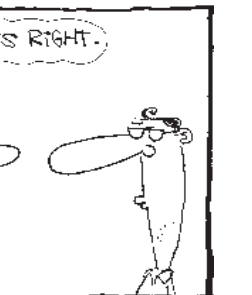
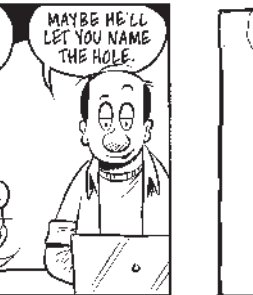
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



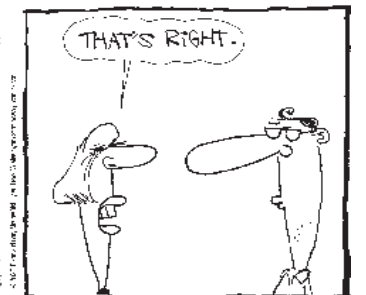
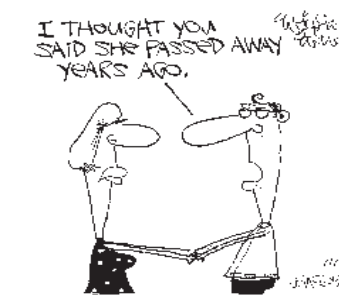
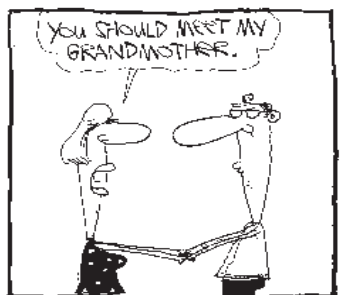
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jazz jargon
5 Picnic dessert
8 "M*A*S*H" actress Loretta
12 Alop
13 Latin 101 word
14 River to the Seine
15 Skillet-like frying vessel
17 Sci-fi vehicles
18 Super Bowl stats
19 Irritate
20 Service period
21 — Lancelot
22 Nursery cry
23 Central
26 "Fingers crossed"
30 MP's quarry
31 Lad
32 Athletic shoe brand
33 "Harlem Hopscotch" poet Maya

DOWN

16 Satan's forte
20 — Paulo, Brazil
21 Bargain shopper's quest
22 Rationale
23 Air safety org.
24 Possess
25 Gear tooth
26 Debtor's note
27 Actress Mendes
28 Go astray
29 Granola grain
31 — voyage!
34 Set afire
35 Big swig
37 Gossip
38 Counterfeit
39 Caffeine-rich nut
40 Oil cartel
41 Blanchett of "The Aviator"
42 Concept
43 Rabbit's title
44 Green shade
46 "Mayday!"
47 Swelled head

Solution time: 22 mins.

L	T	D	A	T	M	T	R	O	T
A	H	O	T	B	O	A	O	B	E
G	O	R	A	E	R	R	N	I	L
Y	U	M	M	C	S	A	I		
L	I	L	I	P	A	D	S	O	N
I	S	A	W	C	O	F	L	O	S
E	M	M	Y	S	T	O	O	L	B
S	E	A	N	C	E	I	K	E	
B	R	A	T	T	O	V	T	H	E
L	I	L	I	E	N	E	A	H	L
T	O	T	E	R	S	T	B	O	Y

Yesterday's answer 7-7

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Kwan, 40; Berenice Bejo, 44; Shelley Duvall, 71; Ringo Starr, 80.

Happy Birthday: Dream on, enjoy using your imagination and take time to explore possibilities. Using your creative talents will give you a sense of security, hope and thoughts regarding new ways to bring in extra cash. Don't sit back when you have so much to offer. Be part of the solution, and you will build a brighter future for you and those you love. Your numbers are 4, 13, 20, 27, 31, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): How you help others will also benefit you. An articulate adaptation of what you want to happen will help you get others to back you during critical times when social distancing has become a preference. Treat yourself to something special. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Set high goals and standards without deviating from your plan. Reach for the stars, and don't settle for less. You've got what it takes to turn a little into a lot. Refuse to let emotions come between you and your goal. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look for the silver lining, and you will excel. Turn a negative into a positive, and refuse to get bogged down with people who can see only what's lacking. Make a lasting impression. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for an outlet for pent-up energy before you implode. Keeping busy is the best way to avoid getting into an argument. Reach out with

love, affection and an offer to work with those you deal with daily. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotional decisions or changes will not turn out as planned. Spend more time figuring out the best way to proceed and less time letting others push you in a direction that makes you feel uncertain. Personal interests will fetch better results. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your mind will work like a sponge, soaking up information that will come in handy as trends kick in and lifestyle changes take place. Stay informed and make innovative suggestions; the result will be lucrative. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do your own thing. If you let others push you around or take advantage of you, it will lower your self-esteem. Stand up for your rights, beliefs and traditions, and you will gain respect. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put emotions aside when it comes to personal or joint money matters. A situation at home will push you to make a lifestyle change. Make sure the decisions you make are for the right reason. Do your homework first. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Learn through experience. Refuse to let anyone use you or feed you false information. Do background checks and go directly to the source before you make a move based on hearsay. Personal gains should include health, wealth and educational pursuits. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put a change you want to make at home in motion. Get the family involved in your plans, and it will result in suggestions that make your life easier. An unexpected turn of events will favor you and your pursuits. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Direct your energy into personal gains, home improvements and physical fitness. Channel your energy into making your space a welcome and efficient environment that encourages you to be productive. A close relationship will improve with nurturing. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be creative in how you handle the changes in your community. Reach out virtually, and discover what the most recent boundaries are and how best to utilize them to get ahead. Turn a negative situation into a positive one. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, adaptable and convincing. You are imaginative and helpful.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	4		8	7		9	
1		7			3		4
	2					8	
4			5	9			2
6			3	1			9
	9					2	
2		8			7		1
	3		4	6		5	

Difficulty Level ★★

7/07

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	9	8	7	3	5	2	6	1
2	6	5	1	9	8	3	7	4
7	1	3	2	6	4	5	8	9
1	8	7	6	5	2	9	4	3
6	3	2	4	8	9	7	1	5
9	5	4	3	7	1	6	2	8
3	7	1	5	4	6	8	9	2
8	4	6	9	2	3	1	5	7
5	2	9	8	1	7	4	3	6

Difficulty Level ★

3/07

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES

Solution: 5 letters

T T I F O R P T U O E K A T I
R N L S N O I T A N O D W N N
A U E A T L L C O F F E E E C
D O E D T N O L L O E L B I O
E C L C N I U A A T C I S L M
S C A A I E P O N M N V I C E
E A U R R V P A C S A E T G C
C C T E S E R E C S A N E R I
R W R E P U D E D A I Y E O R
U E I R A I B E S N F D L C P
O I V T P O H S F R I E I E F
S V S H A R E S I T E E A R F
E E B E N E F I T D L F M Y A
R R U R A L A L P A Y M E N T
A W A R E N E S S A L O N R S

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7/7

Account, Awareness, Benefit, Café, Capital, Career, Client, Coffee, Credit, Delivery, Discounts, Donation, Email, Federal, Finance, Grocery, Income, Independent, Loans, Mail, Payment, Price, Profit, Refer, Resources, Restaurant, Review, Rural, Sale, Salon, Service, Shares, Ship, Shop, Staff, Subsidy, Takeout, Trades, Virtual, Website

Yesterday's Answer: Tiger

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 40, 42, and 44 through 58

order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

List of players opting out of MLB season growing



NEW YORK
(AP)—For-

mer Cy Young Award winner Félix Hernández has joined the list of major leaguers opting out of the 2020 season due to the coronavirus pandemic, at least temporarily ending the 34-year-old's bid to revive his career.

Stars Christian Yelich of the Milwaukee Brewers and Jose Altuve of the Houston Astros said Sunday they plan to play the 60-game season scheduled to start later this month. Reliever Sean Doolittle, who helped Washington win the World Series last year, plans to play but says that if he feels uncomfortable, he'll opt out. He also wondered if the United States has done enough to combat the pandemic to deserve a return to sports.

As baseball prepares to start its season in less than three weeks while the coronavirus continues to ravage the U.S., there is growing unease in many clubhouses. Even Mike Trout's mother weighed in on Twitter, urging Americans to wear masks as the reigning AL MVP considers his options for the season.

Trout's mother, Debbie, tweeted a picture of her son with the caption: "If Mike Trout can wear a mask running the bases, you can wear a mask going out in public," with the hashtag "WearAMask."

Trout's wife, Jessica, is expecting the couple's first child in August and the Los Angeles Angels slugger has said he's not comfortable with the current climate and might not play.

In Oakland, two projected members of the Athletics' starting rotation, ace Mike Fiers and Jesus Luzardo, were not on the field for a second straight day of the reboot of spring training because of what manager Bob Melvin called a "pending" issue without elaborating, aside from saying it's not injury-related.

Fiers was the whistleblower of the Houston Astros' sign-stealing scandal who pitched his second career no-hitter last season. He and Luzardo were workout partners in Florida during the offseason and quarantine period.

The A's, who have lost the AL wild-card game the last two seasons, are not confirming positive coronavirus tests.

Oakland was forced to push back its first full-squad workout because intake testing results for position players were not yet available following the July 4 holiday. The team expects to practice as a full unit Monday.

Atlanta Braves manager Brian Snitker said Hernández decided to opt out after he participated in workouts on



Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout runs the bases during practice at Angels Stadium on Friday, July 3, 2020, in Anaheim, Calif.

opting out but will support any player who does.

"For myself, it was an easy call," he said Sunday. "Guys are all in different boats. If you choose to opt out or if we ever had anybody who chose to opt out, I would fully support that decision and understand where they were coming from."

Altuve, the 2017 AL MVP, has two daughters at home, including one who was born this summer.

Although he had concerns about returning to play, he said: "I asked our doctors and almost everybody how high-risk my baby and my wife could be because (the baby) is so young. The answer I got was they don't qualify for the high-risk percentage of people. So that's why I decided to join my team."

Indians manager Terry Francona has been staying apprised on players such as Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher David Price who have decided against playing.

"I have a feeling that there probably are more guys than have been listed that are probably along those categories that are thinking of things like that," he said.

Rangers All-Star slugger Joey Gallo and first baseman Ronald Guzman haven't taken part in the first three days of workouts. General manager Jon Daniels said they are still in the intake testing process. Reliever Brett Martin tested positive on intake and allowed the Rangers to disclose that Friday.

Daniels said he didn't plan to announce if the team has any more positive tests.

Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton said outfielder Socrates Brito and pitcher Blake Cederlind tested positive for the coronavirus and allowed their names to be released. Shelton indicated there are other players on the club who have tested positive but have not granted the team permission to announce the diagnosis.

Philadelphia ace Aaron Nola is among the seven Phillies players who haven't reported. The team is not revealing who is on the COVID-19 list. Seven players have tested positive, including the players who forced the shutdown of the team's spring training complex a few weeks ago.

The Chicago White Sox said two players tested positive and are asymptomatic. They are isolated in Chicago.

Friday and Saturday at Truist Park. The decision came a day after Snitker announced that four-time All-Star first baseman Freddie Freeman, premier reliever Will Smith and two other Atlanta players tested positive for the virus.

Hernández, a six-time All-Star in 15 seasons with Seattle who won the 2010 AL Cy Young Award, needed a fresh start following his worst season. King Félix signed a one-year minor league deal with the defending NL East champion Braves and made a strong early impression in spring training before the pandemic delayed the season.

Minutes after Nationals manager Dave Martinez said two players out of 60 tested

were positive for the virus, Doolittle lamented not having his test results back from Friday and implored baseball to "clean this up."

The 33-year-old said the Nationals still haven't received the respirator masks they were told were coming.

"It's a little bit disorganized," Doolittle said. "We're not getting tests back in time. They still haven't sent us the PPE. We're supposed to have N95 masks, stuff like that, gowns, gloves. We're supposed to have that stuff, we don't have that stuff. Those are the things it's going to take for people to stay safe enough for us to continue this season."

Doolittle said he's still debating whether to play.

"There's a lot of players right now trying to make decisions that might be participating in camp that aren't 100 percent comfortable with where things are at right now," Doolittle said. "I'm planning on playing, but if at any point I start to feel unsafe, if it starts to take a toll on my mental health with all these things that we have to worry about and just kind of this cloud of uncertainty hanging over everything, then I'll opt out."

Doolittle also implored fans to take care of themselves and attempt to stop the spread of COVID-19 to make sure baseball and other sports can resume.

"Sports are like the reward of a functional society, and

we're just like trying to bring it back even though we've taken none of the steps to flatten the curve or whatever you want to say," he said. "We did flatten the curve for a little bit, but we didn't use that time to do anything productive. We just opened back up for Memorial Day. We decided we're done with it."

"If there aren't sports, it's going to be because people are not wearing masks because the response to this has been so politicized. We need help from the general public. If they want to watch baseball, please wear a mask, social distance, keep washing your hands."

Yelich, the NL MVP in 2018, said he never thought of

5 test positive in MLS bubble



FLORIDA—There's more COVID-19 trouble in the Major League Soccer bubble in Orlando. The Athletic's Paul Tenorio and Sam Stejskal reported Sunday that five players on Nashville SC have tested positive for the coronavirus since arriving in Orlando.

One player tested positive during initial arrival testing, and four more tested positive in subsequent testing. Nashville is scheduled to face the Chicago Fire on Wednesday, but that match is in doubt now

since the team hasn't practiced since Tuesday. It's possible that it could be postponed, which is what MLS did when nine FC Dallas players tested positive last week.

The positive tests don't end there. Two members of the Colorado Rapids have reportedly tested positive for COVID-19, and the team is delaying their flight to Orlando until Sunday.

If the Rapids end up being able to travel to Orlando on Sunday, they'll all be tested there once they arrive. But as we've seen with both FC

Dallas and Nashville SC, arrival testing may not catch everything.

Balancing health history, risk

Meanwhile, Vancouver Whitecaps midfielder Andy Rose needed to have a lot of conversations and make hard decisions when Major League Soccer first started moving toward returning to action with a tournament in Florida.

There were concerns about potentially exposing his young son and pregnant wife to the coronavirus.

And as someone living with Type 1 diabetes, significant concerns about his own personal health.

"You're trying to not read too much. There's so much information out there," Rose said. "I checked in with my endocrinologist a couple weeks ago, we had a conversation."

The majority of the league's players will be taking part when the tournament starts next week. For some like Rose, that will include balancing underlying health concerns with the opportunity to return to the field. (AP/NBC)

Packers CEO skeptical on NFL season



NEW YORK—

When the coronavirus pandemic started shutting down every major North American sports league, it was hard not to think the NFL was the luckiest of the bunch.

The NBA and NHL had to shut down seasons in progress, forcing them to wait months until they could restart and play their postseason in isolation. MLB was weeks from the start of its season, and now faces the prospect of an abbreviated 2020 season with no fans in attendance.

The NFL had to hold its draft remotely, as well as other offseason programs. That was inconvenient, but not as financially catastrophic as the other leagues. More importantly, the NFL still had nearly six months from Rudy Gobert's positive coronavirus test until its season was supposed to begin. Surely that was enough time for the United States to get the coronavirus under control, right?

Unfortunately, the answer to that question is increasingly beginning to look like "no," and one team leader indicated the league is running out of time before it has to confront the idea of a season played during a pandemic.

In his monthly column on the Green Bay Packers' website, team CEO Mark Murphy addressed the threat posed by the continuing rise of coronavirus cases. He sounded like a man trying to prime his audience for some bad news, saying several difficult decisions would be coming in the next few weeks.

"With training camps set to



In this Jan. 19, 2020 file photo, Green Bay Packers wide receiver Allen Lazard (13) falls to the ground between San Francisco 49ers free safety Jimmie Ward (20) and Emmanuel Moseley during the first half of the NFL NFC Championship game in Santa Clara, Calif.

start in less than a month and with COVID-19 showing no signs of slowing down, the Packers will have to make several difficult decisions in the coming weeks. Since the pandemic arrived earlier this year, NFL teams have had the benefit of time. Unlike professional basketball, hockey and baseball teams who were either in the middle of their seasons or about to start, we were in the beginning of our offseason. NFL teams were able to handle free agency, the draft and their entire offseason programs virtually," Murphy said.

"We've made decisions along the way, but the major ones we've been able to put off until we have more information. With so much uncertainty, it has made sense that we have not made decisions until we absolutely have to. As we near the start of training camp, though (rookies will start practice on July 21 and veterans on the 28th), time is no longer on our side," he added.

We are now two months and change from the NFL's season opener on Sept. 10 between the Kansas City Chiefs and Houston Texans. Even less time remains until the pre-season (if there is one). And, as Murphy puts it, the NFL is still waiting to decide if it should even let fans into its games, not to mention holding games as scheduled at all.

Dr. Anthony Fauci isn't very sure about that latter prospect, and the recent rash of NBA and MLB coronavirus cases isn't very encouraging when thinking about what it would take to prevent NFL players from contracting the virus.

Murphy called the choice of changing the schedule a

league decision, while allowing fans into games will be up to clubs. However, the NFL has already decided the front few rows will be tarped off to protect players from exposure to fans and get some advertising revenue in the process.

Given that COVID-19 cases have been skyrocketing in the last few weeks with many states hesitant to shut down again, it's hard to imagine a tarp will be enough for the NFL to hold this season responsibly when it comes to public health.

Holding games in fan-less stadiums is almost certain to be necessary if the NFL doesn't want to be responsible for a massive number of new coronavirus cases. Even if it allows some teams to do whatever their states allow them to, you're still looking at an uneven mess.

Given that MLB's very public squabbling was essentially built on the owners' claim that games with full prorated player pay and without fans would be financially unfeasible, that's probably not something the NFL wants to confront until it's absolutely necessary.

However, that time might be now, and the NFL soon may not look as fortunate compared to the NBA and MLB.

Meanwhile, the Las Vegas Raiders are having ongoing internal discussions about a number of different options and approaches for a rabid season-ticket base that completely sold out brand new Allegiant Stadium.

As the Raiders continue to sort through the situation, they have indefinitely pushed back the deadline for final payment on 2020 season tickets. (NBC)



DETROIT

(AP)—Bryson DeChambeau pounded protein shakes and lifted iron to transform his body, adding 40 pounds of mass, and changed his game to put a premium on power.

The plan is working.

With jaw-dropping drives and some clutch putts, DeChambeau won the Rocket Mortgage Classic by three strokes Sunday for his first victory of the season and sixth overall. He became the first PGA Tour player since 2004 to lead a tournament in driving distance, along with shots gained off the tee and putting.

"This is a little emotional for me because I did do something a little different," the 26-year-old DeChambeau said. "I changed my body, changed my mindset in the game and I was able to accomplish a win while playing

DeChambeau proves doubters wrong

a completely different style of golf. And, it's pretty amazing to see that. I hope it's an inspiration to a lot of people."

DeChambeau shot a 7-under 65 at Detroit Golf Club, birdieing four of the first seven holes and closing with three straight. He finished at a career-best 23-under 265.

Matthew Wolff (71) was second. He started the day with a three-shot lead and hurt his chances with five bogeys over his first 10 holes. Kevin Kisner (66) finished another stroke back as part of a relatively weak field that continued to trend of exceptional play since the PGA Tour restarted.

"The level of play on tour in these first four weeks has been incredible, cuts at 4 and 5 under every week," Kisner said.

With a strong finish, De-

Chambeau removed all doubt that he would win the second Rocket Mortgage Classic.

He made a 30-foot birdie putt at No. 16, which he said was his shot of the day. He also had a short putt for birdie on the next hole. And finally, he uncorked a 367-yard drive to set up another short putt at 18.

DeChambeau came into the week with six straight top-eight finishes and was the only player with top 10s in the first three events after the restart from the coronavirus pandemic. He won for the first time since the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in November 2018.

DeChambeau has dramatically altered his body, packing about 240 pounds on his 6-foot-1 body, and took advantage of the extra time he had to work on his

physique during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"He understands what is the key to gaining the biggest advantage and that's distance, and mega distance," Kisner said. "He just has too much time on his hands. He needs to start getting married and having kids and feel like the rest of us."

DeChambeau's power was on full display in the Motor City with drives that went 351 yards on average after looking like he might swing out of his spikes.

When DeChambeau was on the tee box at the 399-yard, par-4 13th, he waited for the next group to leave the green before hitting his drive so that he didn't hit any fellow competitors.

"No, I've never done that," he acknowledged. "I really

could have gotten there."

His drive on the 621-yard, par-5 fourth went way left and landed in greenside rough on an adjacent hole. He cleared towering trees and landed just short of the green, sending his approach 276 yards and he two-putted from 37 feet.

"That was probably my second best moment of the day," DeChambeau said. "I got really quite honestly pretty lucky being able to get over these trees and let it land and roll onto the front edge of the green."

As his body and power becomes a fixation for those who follow golf, more eyes are on him and it bothered him during the third round.

On Saturday, DeChambeau had a testy exchange with a TV cameraman after a bogey on the sixth hole. After the third round, he bristled that it

isn't right showing a potential vulnerability and hurting someone's image.

DeChambeau, though, tried to soften his stance on the issue Sunday by saying the cameraman was just trying to do his job.

During the final round, he was also briefly distracted by a commotion outside the course.

While a Black Lives Matter protests was gathering outside the Detroit Golf Club, breaking the silence of the fan-free event with chants and air horns, DeChambeau took some time to reset before hitting a 366-yard drive.

"I know there's a lot of strife and trouble going on right now," he said. "I love that everybody's voicing their opinion and I think that they deserve to do so."

"We're golfers here trying to provide the best entertainment. I think that's the most important thing that we can do."

Bucks, Kings shut down training facilities



SACRAMENTO—The Miami Heat. Denver Nuggets. Los Angeles Clippers. Milwaukee Bucks. And the list goes on.

It's now up to seven of the 22 NBA teams headed to the restart in Orlando who have at least temporarily shut down their team practice facilities with the addition of the Sacramento Kings, who made the move on Sunday.

"A member of the traveling party" is as vague a phrasing as teams have come up with to mask who tested positive.

Kings players will miss out on a few days of workouts at the team facility but not many as they head to Orlando on Sunday. Upon arrival players are quarantined in their hotel rooms until they test negative on two coronavirus tests 24 hours apart. After that they can head out into the hotel,



The Milwaukee Bucks closed their practice facility due to the COVID-19 virus concerns.

AP

TENNIS

From Page 20

Federation's signal to restart junior tennis action before any competition takes place.

Another concern for OTF and its members is the availability of flights.

"This is a major worry. We shall have a better understanding of this nearer the date and will therefore take a review at the beginning of the second week of August. In the meantime, if you have any information on international flights resuming for your country, that information would be very useful. So please email me an update even if it says no current flights and no confirmed dates for resuming flights," Breen said.

In the CNMI's case, only United Airlines has flights to Guam (every Monday, Thursday, Saturday). No final schedule on international flights from other airlines have been announced.

With the uncertainties on international travel, OTF said it may consider moving the North Pacific event to either October or November and in the process the POJC would also be delayed (scheduled between November and December).

"December may mean less school missed, however it might mean more expensive flights so we shall have to wait and see," Breen said.

The OTF is also looking at the possibility of teams not making it to the regional tournament because of the travel challenges so the federation will hold a discussion on giving wild card entries at the POJC based on the players' previous results in the Fiji competition and the member-associations' requests.

"This is new territory for all of us so there will be discussion with everyone and I really welcome your input and suggestions," Breen said.

they just have to follow all the rules and protocols of life in the bubble.

The Kings arrive in Orlando in the group 3.5 games back of Memphis for the eighth seed and the final playoff spot. However, the Kings are considered a longshot to get into a play-in series against the Grizzlies because the Kings are a young team and they have a tougher schedule than New Orleans (another team 3.5 games out).

While, the NBA will soon have 22 teams converge on Disney World to play out their

season, some those teams won't have the same ability to prepare as the others.

The Milwaukee Bucks joined that group on Sunday when they closed down their practice facility after receiving results of coronavirus tests held on Friday.

The Bucks' facility reportedly won't reopen before they head south to Orlando on Thursday.

The Bucks joined the growing group that shut down their practice facility over coronavirus concerns. The Nuggets were the first to do it last week, fol-

lowed by the Clippers on Thursday and the Heat on Friday.

Each of those teams has a varying degree of hope to win what will be a highly unusual NBA playoffs, but the Bucks are clearly the most consequential. The team holds an NBA-best 53-12 record, and have the second-best MGM odds to win the championship at +280, only behind the Los Angeles Lakers' mark of +250.

Meanwhile, grieving the death of a cousin and missing his mother, Damian Lillard struggled emotionally after the NBA shut down because of

the coronavirus.

But he also found inspiration in his activism for Black Lives Matter and his flourishing music career.

The Trail Blazers were just out of the playoff picture, sitting ninth in the Western Conference standings on March 11 when the league was shuttered. The team will be among 22 that will depart next week for Orlando as part of the re-start.

Portland will have eight games to secure a playoff berth, starting on July 31 with Memphis. (AP/NBC)

AYUYUS

From Page 20

training and there were no regular games," Mita said. "Also since they stayed home for a while, some players gained weight and some lost due to muscle loss."

The NMITA technical director added that they are not putting pressure on the players as they just returned to the pitch and will consider the first few months as recovery training period.

"We are focusing now on conditioning training to get back physical fitness and individual ball techniques to get back ball feeling," Mita said.

The head coach also said they are doing yo-yo test for each player and regularly monitoring their weight. The test, according to ESPN Soccer, involves a player shuttling between two cones that are set 20 meters apart on flat ground. He starts on a beep and needs to get to the cone at the other end before the second beep goes. He then turns back and returns to the starting cone before the third beep.

Mita and assistant coach Jerish Angeles keep track of the records, making comparison of the player's previous

and current times and from there each team member work on his desired mark.

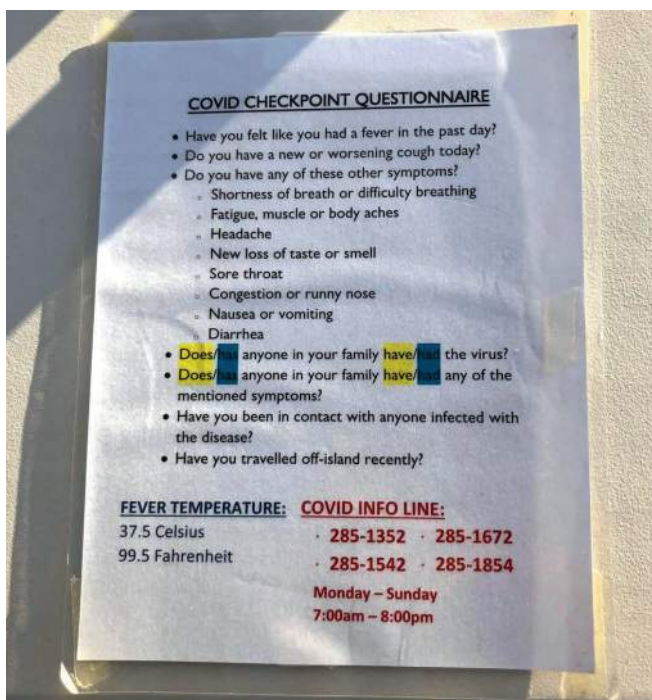
Kohtaro Goto, who is part of the CNMI Boys U15 National Team, said the first few days of the training sessions were challenging, especially they had a long layoff and had to rely on online sessions.

"It's really different when you have your teammates on the pitch and training together than doing online drills. I'm happy that we started training again even though the whole team can't train together for our safety," Goto said.

He added that returning to the pitch gives him and his teammates more motivation to get back in shape and prepare for the tournaments ahead.

Daniell Pablo, who trains with the U17 group, meanwhile, said that they need to put in extra work besides their scheduled training to make up for the lost time.

"Some of us are doing cardio in our own time and going to Ada (Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium), the pathway along Beach Road, and even at the Peace Park (Eloy S. Inos Peace Park) for runs. It's been tough, but we are slowly try-



KRIZEL TUAZON

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association staff members refer to the COVID-19 safety checklist before allowing any individual entry to the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

ing to gain back our strength and stamina to get ready for competitions," Pablo said.

The Ayuyus, according to Mita, are training for the East Asian Football Federation E-1 Football Championship 2021 Round 1 (men's team), Marianas Cup (U15 and U17), and

two Asian Football Confederation qualifying tournaments (U17 and U20). With the COVID-19 pandemic still a major concern across the globe, dates for these competitions have yet to be confirmed and will wait for clearances from sanctioning groups.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita, seen here watching one of their off-island games, facilitates the resumption of the national teams' training at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



List of players
opting out of
MLB season
growing

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Packers CEO
skeptical on
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ayuyus work on regaining form



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI players have been practicing social distancing while training at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI national players are taking it one step at a time, as they resumed their training sessions at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville to get back in tip-top shape.



KRIZEL TUAZON

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association staff Angie Ito checks the temperature of Joshua Galarion, while other players wait for their turn during a training session at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville yesterday.



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and head coach Michiteru Mita, who oversees the Ayuyus' practices that restarted last month, said that they have limited training drills, as each group is strictly following safety guidelines set by NMIFA and government authorities at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"However, the training is going well. The players are enjoying kicking the ball with their teammates while observing social distancing and other COVID-19 precautions," Mita said.

The head coach has set training sessions from Monday to Saturday with activities for the Commonwealth players (boys U15, U17, U20 and the men's national squads) varying every day. The actual training at the NMISTC is three times a week and is mixed with online sessions, while the major focus of the drills is for individual skills and physical fitness improvement.

"In the past three months, players continued their workout individually. However most of the players had their physical fitness level dropped since we suspended actual

See AYUYUS on Page 19

Uncertainties on tennis tournaments continue

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Oceania Tennis Federation has announced anew the dates for the North Pacific Regional Championships at the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, but anticipates changes in the schedule as the world still deals with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The North Pacific event, which was originally set for last month in Guam, will now be played from Sept. 5 to 9, according to OTF executive officer Richard Breen.

"The OTF decided to schedule the start on a Saturday and include the weekend to reduce the number of school days that the players will miss, assuming flight schedules match," said Breen in his letter to OTF member-federations, including the CNMI.

In this 2019 file photo, the CNMI's Sean Lee hits back to Guam's Jacob San Augustin during their boys U16 singles game in the North Pacific Regional Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

ing the CNMI.

In the North Pacific competition, the CNMI is set to battle players from the host island, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Players who will make the grade in the North Pacific event will then

qualify for the POJC, which has been from August to Oct. 14-23 in Fiji.

Though the dates for the two tournaments have been reset, OTF will still have to wait for the International Tennis

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